Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-202
Thursday
21 October 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-202 21 Oct 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Gaza-Jericho Committee Holds Meetings in Taba 1
Sha'th, Shahaq Hold Closed Talks *[MENA]* 1
Main Issues for Talks Listed *[MENA]* 1
Detainees Issue of 'Great Importance' *[MENA]* 1
PLO Rejects Israeli Security Proposals *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Sha'th on Prisoner Releases, Settlements *[Jerusalem International]* 2
Committee Resumes Talks *[MENA]* 2
Comments by Sha'th, Other Members *[MENA]* 2
Palestinians Submit List of Detainees *[MENA]* 3
Sha'th, Shahaq Meet Privately 21 Oct *[MENA]* 3
Official Stresses Release of Detainees *[MENA]* 3
New Members Join Delegation to Taba Talks *[MENA]* 3
Freed Prisoner Abu Joms Delegation *[Jerusalem TV]* 4
Israeli Settlers Demonstrate During Taba Meeting *[MENA]* 4
Shahaq, Settlers' Representative Meet *[MENA]* 4

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives Ross, Peace Process Discussed *[Sanaa YOP]* 4
Palestinians Hold Meeting With Ross *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
'Arafat at Odds With Rabin on Implementation Delay *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
'Arafat Said To Appoint Intelligence Service Head *[AL-UFUQ 20 Oct]* 5
'Arafat Receives 'Important' Letter From King Husayn *[Sanaa YOP]* 5
'Arafat on National Authority, Economic Aid, Refugees *[AL-RAY 20 Oct]* 5
Senior PLO Official Killed by Gunmen in Gaza 21 Oct 8
Victim Had 'Close Links' With 'Arafat *[AFP]* 8
Delegate Reacts to Assassination *[Jerusalem Radio]* 8
Hamas Denies Responsibility *[Jerusalem Radio]* 8
Hamas Threatens To Execute 'Collaborators' in Gaza *[AFP]* 8
Investigations of Detainees Show Link to Abu Nidal *[London AL-HAYAH 17 Oct]* 9
'Abbas on Gulf Ties, Solving Problems With Israel *[Cairo International]* 9
Sha'th on Normalization, PLO Dissolution *[AL-DUSTUR 20 Oct]* 10
Al-Hasan Says PLO's Approval of Accord 'Illegal' *[AL-SAFIR 13 Oct]* 11
Jibril Outlines PFLP-GC's Stance, Programs *[London AL-WASAT 18-24 Oct]* 14
'Abd-al-Shafi Voices Skepticism About New Front *[AL-QUDS 20 Oct]* 15
'Ashrawi Advocates Working With Opposition *[London AL-HAYAH 18 Oct]* 16
PLO Assets Sold, Fatah Military Apparatus Dismantled *[AL-DIYAR 13 Oct]* 17

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Parties View Proposals for National Dialogue *[Algiers Radio]* 18
RCD Comments on National Conference Committee *[Algiers Radio]* 18
EC Grants $35 Million for Agriculture *[Algiers Radio]* 18
Japanese Bank To Loan $400 Million *[Algiers Radio]* 19

Egypt

Labor Leader on Interrogation, Government *[AL-SHAB 15 Oct]* 19

Mubarak Weapons Deals Criticized *[AL-SHAB 5 Oct]* 21
Labor Party Denounces Government 'Onslaught' *[AL-SHAB 12 Oct]* 22
Opposition Party on Anti-Labor Party Measures *[AL-AHALI 13 Oct]* 22
Regime Said Unable To Intimidate Opposition *[AL-WAFD 14 Oct]* 23
Brotherhood Could Win 20 Percent in Parliament *[IRNA]* 24
Detained Vanguards Leader on al-Jihad Aims, Activities *[London AL-HAYAH 16 Oct]* 24
Unidentified Gunmen Kill 2, Wound 1 in Dayrut *[MENA]* 26
Mubarak Returns From Visit to Saudi Arabia *[MENA]* 26
Foreign Minister Musa Leaves for Amman *[MENA]* 27
Foreign Minister Discusses Peace Talks, Sudan *[London AL-WASAT 18-24 Oct]* 27
Somali Experience Shows 'Falsehood' of U.S. Power *[AL-SHAB 12 Oct]* 28
Fulfillment of Arab, Israeli Dreams Foreseen *[Cairo Radio]* 28
Navy Head on Modernization, Joint Exercises *[MENA]* 28

Libya

Opposition Claims Air Force Bombed Rebels *[London AL-HAYAH 20 Oct]* 29
Lockerbie Lawyer Accuses UK, U.S. of Pressure *[Edinburgh THE SCOTSMAN 19 Oct]* 30

Morocco

Parliamentary Committee Chairmen Appointed *[MAP]* 30
Spanish Official Reaffirms Military Cooperation *[MAP]* 31
Spanish Foreign Minister Comments on Talks, Leaves *[Rabat Radio]* 31

Sudan

Foreign Minister on Date for Elections *[Dakar PANA]* 31
Official on Elections, Southern Crisis *[MENA]* 31
General Claims Somalis Trained in Sudan *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Oct]* 32
Correction to Vice President Appointed 33

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GCC Secretary General on Defense, Security Issues *[London AL-HAYAH 17 Oct]* 34

Kuwait

Iranian Summit Invitation Expected 'Soon' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 20 Oct]* 35

Qatar

Amir Receives Message From Vietnam's President *[WAKH]* 35

Saudi Arabia

King Hold Talks With Egypt's Mubarak at Airport *[MENA]* 36
Mubarak Said Mediating for Jordan *[AL-RAY 21 Oct]* 36
Mubarak Leaves Jeddah *[MENA]* 36
Crown Prince Receives Syrian Foreign Minister *[SPA]* 37

Yemen

Al-Bid on Relations Within Leadership *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Oct]* 37
Parties Present Plan To End Political Crisis *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 19 Oct]* 38

IRAQ

'Joint Council' With Iran Reportedly Being Formed *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 19 Oct]* 40
Iranian Delegation Visits Shrines *[INA]* 40
U.S. Diplomat, Tariq 'Aziz Reportedly Meet in Amman *[AKHIR KHABAR 19 Oct]* 40
Tariq 'Aziz 'Determined To Exploit' French Trip *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 19 Oct]* 41
Visit To 'Penetrate' French Diplomacy *[AL-RAY 21 Oct]* 41
Defection of Military Plane to Saudi Arabia Denied *[INA]* 41

Explosion Reported at Party Office in Baghdad *[Baghdad Radio]* 41
Health Minister Details Embargo-Related Fatalities *[INA]* 42
State-Run Factories Sold to 'Mixed Sector' *[INA]* 42

ISRAEL

U.S. Envoy Ross Meets With Rabin, Peres, Others 44
Rabin, Ross View 'Palestinian Issue' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44
Rabin: Link Aid to Jordan With Ties *[YEDIOT AHARONOT 21 Oct]* 44
Peres, Ross Focus on Jordanian Track *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44
Ross Meets Lubrani, Departs *[Jerusalem Radio]* 44
Rabin: Prisoner Release Depends on Talks' Progress *[Jerusalem Radio]* 45
Plan for Releasing Palestinian Prisoners Reported *[Jerusalem TV]* 45
Release Should Wait for 'Right Climate' *[HA'ARETZ 20 Oct]* 45
Peres on Syrian Talks, Prisoners, Jerusalem Law *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 46
SHAS, Likud Agree on Amendment to Jerusalem Law *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
Coalition Endures 'Big Defeat' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
Shahal Reveals Contacts With Unnamed Gulf State *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
Policy on German-Iranian Nuclear Ties Criticized *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
Beilin Says Contacts With DPRK Suspended *[DAVAR 21 Oct]* 48
Minister Aloni Leaves for Tour of FRG, France, UK *[Jerusalem Radio]* 48
Convicted Spy in Hiding Following Release From Jail *[HADASHOT 21 Oct]* 48

JORDAN

U.S. Envoy Ross Begins Talks in Amman 20 Oct *[Amman Radio]* 49
Meets King, Prince Hasan *[Amman Radio]* 49
News Conference Held *[Amman Radio]* 49
British Foreign Office Official Arrives *[Amman Radio]* 51
Meets With al-'Anani *[Amman TV]* 51
Al-'Anani Comments on Talks *[Amman TV]* 51
UN's Hansen Discusses Peace Process *[Amman TV]* 52

LEBANON

Hizballah Group Visits UK, Meets Tunisia's Ghannouchi *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 53
Islamic Leader Comments on Somali Situation *[Tehran International]* 53
Saudi Fund Provides Loans for University, Roads *[Beirut Radio]* 53
Resistance Member Killed in Attack in South *[VOL]* 53
Israel Releases 3 'Kidnapped' Fishermen *[VOL]* 53

SYRIA

U.S. Envoy Ross Arrives in Damascus *[Damascus Radio]* 54
'No One Expects Much' From Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 54
Israel Trying To 'Sabotage' Madrid Formula *[Damascus Radio]* 55
Vice President Meets PFLP-GC's Jibril *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 56
Foreign Minister Returns From Saudi Arabia *[SANA]* 56

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Rabbani Returns to Kabul From Gulf Tour *[Kabul Radio]* 57
Indonesia Promises Help in Reconstruction *[Kabul Radio]* 57

Bangladesh

World Community Help Urged on Water Sharing Problem *[Dhaka Radio]* 57
Two Aid Agreements Signed With United Kingdom *[Dhaka Radio]* 58

India

Siege Around Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar Continues 58

Governor: Forces Will Not Enter Shrine *[Delhi Radio]* 55
General Interviewed on Situation *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Officials on Purpose of Troops' Deployment *[Delhi Radio]* 59
Troops Break Up Protests *[UNI]* 59
One Killed in Ramabani *[Delhi Radio]* 60
'Militants' Give 'Encouraging Signs' *[Delhi Radio]* 60
Islamabad TV Updates Events 60
Extradition Proceedings Begun for Kashmir Leader *[Delhi TV]* 60
Commentary Criticizes European Socialists *[Delhi International]* 61
UN Delegate Charges Pakistan With Sponsoring Subversion *[Delhi Radio]* 61
Akali Leaders Held in Punjab for Plans To Disturb Peace *[Delhi Radio]* 61
Congress-I Announces Manifesto for Local Elections *[Delhi Radio]* 61

Iran

German Businessman To Be Released *[Hamburg DPA]* 62
Intelligence Minister's Visit to IRGC Viewed *[Voice of Iranian Kurdistan]* 62
Kurdish Party Urges German Action on Killing *[Voice of Iranian Kurdistan]* 63
Goals of Mitterrand's Regional Visit Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* 64
Khamene'i on Somalia, Military 'Shortcomings' *[Tehran Radio]* 64
IRGC Commander on Anti-Iranian 'Plot' *[RESALAT 21 Sep]* 65
Turkish Request To Pursue Kurds Rejected *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 19 Oct]* 66
Volume of Trade With Turkey Rises *[Tehran TV]* 66
Pakistani Foreign Minister Meets Rafsanjani *[Tehran Radio]* 66
President Congratulates Pakistan's Bhutto *[IRNA]* 66
Envoy in Delhi Urges Bilateral Cooperation *[Tehran International]* 66
UN Envoy Discusses GATT Application *[IRNA]* 67
Tehran-Tashkent Air Service Begins *[Tehran Radio]* 67
Non-Oil Exports From West Azerbaijan Detailed *[Tehran Radio]* 67
Ahvaz Steel Production Figures *[Tehran Radio]* 67

Pakistan

Prime Minister Bhutto Outlines Government Priorities *[Islamabad TV]* 67
Government May Seek Term Reduction *[THE MUSLIM 20 Oct]* 68
Bhutto Says Kashmir 'Main Obstacle' in Indian Ties *[Islamabad TV]* 68
Discusses Kashmir, U.S. Ties, Nuclear Program *[London AL-HAYAT 20 Oct]* 69
To Raise Kashmir at Commonwealth Summit *[Islamabad Radio]* 70
Television Relays Bhutto's Swearing-In Ceremony *[Islamabad TV]* 71
Four Ministers Take Oath *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Paper Views Bhutto's 'Dramatic Comeback' *[THE NEWS 20 Oct]* 72
Challenges Ahead Assessed *[THE MUSLIM 20 Oct]* 73
Sharif Addresses Assembly Following Bhutto Victory *[Islamabad TV]* 73
Voting for Provincial Assembly Officials Detailed *[Islamabad TV]* 74
Sharif Allies Elected in NWFP *[Islamabad TV]* 74
PPP Candidates Elected Punjab, Sindh Chief Ministers *[Islamabad International]* 75
Bhutto Congratulates Chief Ministers *[Islamabad Radio]* 75
Spokesman Expresses 'Shock' Over Kashmir Leader's Arrest *[Islamabad TV]* 75
'Deep Concern' Over Afghan Clashes *[Islamabad Radio]* 75

Sri Lanka

President, Prime Minister Congratulate Bhutto *[Colombo International]* 75
Security Forces Kill Nine LTTE 'Terrorists' *[Colombo International]* 75
Air Force Reportedly Grounds Argentine-Built Planes *[UPI]* 76
Editorial Stresses Need To Resolve Ethnic Conflict *[DIVAINA 18 Oct]* 76

Arab-Israeli Talks

Gaza-Jericho Committee Holds Meetings in Taba

Sha'th, Shahaq Hold Closed Talks

NC2010124293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1053 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 20 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian team on the Gaza-Jericho Committee, held a closed meeting in the Taba Hotel this afternoon with General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff and head of the Israeli team on the Committee.

MENA has learned that Sha'th and Shahaq will discuss releasing Palestinian detainees from Israeli prisons within the framework of the confidence-building plan and the timetable for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho in preparation for replacing them with Palestinian authorities.

The Palestinian and Israeli sides are scheduled to hold an expanded meeting later today.

Main Issues for Talks Listed

NC2010194793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 20 Oct (MENA)—The Palestinian and Israeli delegations to the Gaza-Jericho Committee meeting in Taba are faced with major problems: the number of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails and the dates on which they will be released; the Israeli and Palestinian views concerning the area that Jericho, as designated in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, will cover; and the issue of the crossing points.

A member of the Palestinian delegation told MENA that the PLO has maps specifying the overall area of Jericho and showing that, according to maps dating back to the Ottoman and British Mandate eras, its minimum area should be 345 sq km.

Khalil Tufaqji said that Israel wishes to interpret the text pertaining to withdrawal from Jericho in the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles as denoting a withdrawal from 25 sq km representing only Jericho's municipal area. He added that the three refugee camps of 'Aqabat Jabr, 'Ayn al-Sultan, and al-Nuway'imah, currently inhabited by some 5,000 people, lie outside this municipal area. He pointed out that this issue is essential to the Palestinians because it touches on the need to maintain the geographical unity of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Tufaqji explained that there is no Palestinian-Israeli dispute over the area to be vacated in Gaza, this being the Strip's specified area of 365 sq km.

Commenting on the third outstanding problem pertaining to the crossing points following Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, Tufaqji said that Israel has requested to continue supervising these crossings in the period immediately following its withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. He said that the Palestinians have asked to supervise the crossings in cooperation with Egypt, Jordan, or with some multilateral forces. Tufaqji pointed out that disagreement continues on this issue.

Detainees Issue of 'Great Importance'

NC2010201193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1648 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 20 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation in the Gaza-Jericho committee, has affirmed that the issue of the release of Palestinian detainees from Israeli prisons is of great importance to the Palestinians. He stressed the need for Israel to implement the provisions of the declaration of principles concerning this matter which was signed in Washington last month.

In a statement he made following the first session of the Gaza-Jericho committee this afternoon, Dr. Sha'th said that details of this issue will be discussed in the session which the Palestinian and Israeli delegations will hold later this evening.

Dr. Sha'th said the signing of the peace agreement between Palestine and Israel suggested an inclination toward pardoning all prisoners because this is a movement from war to peace. He said the release of Palestinian prisoners would underscore movement toward a full reconciliation between the two sides and constitute an important confidence-building measure in the next stage. It would also help convince the entire Palestinian people that the peace process is genuine and credible, he said.

Sha'th noted old sensitivities between the Palestinians and the Israelis as a result of past suffering. He said these sensitivities, however, are not necessarily justified and each party has to convince its people that the peace process is sound.

Sha'th said the success of the peace process between the Palestinians and the Israelis and Israel's commitment to the Declaration of Principles will have a political and economic impact on the region and, at the same time, create a climate that would help a future reconciliation among all parties. Peace, he said, means putting an end to violence and solving problems in a different way.

Asked about security issues in the Gaza-Jericho agreement, Sha'th said this requires lengthy discussions, noting that the two sides will present their views at the meetings of the Gaza-Jericho committee tomorrow, Thursday [21 October].

Sha'th said that when the Palestinian forces regain authority in Gaza and Jericho, they will have officials to maintain security in the liberated areas.

On the Israeli settlements in Gaza, Sha'th said this subject is extremely complicated and will be solved at the final-status negotiations. He noted that there is a decision to withdraw from Gaza but Israel wants the Israeli Army to protect the settlements.

Sha'th wondered how there can be a withdrawal from Gaza when Israel demands that the Israeli forces continue to maintain security there. He said: We are not setting preconditions for the negotiations; all that we are asking for is a commitment to the text of the Declaration of Principles signed by the two sides.

Concluding his statement, Dr. Nabil Sha'th praised the atmosphere of today's talks and said it reflects the two sides' willingness to support the peace process.

PLO Rejects Israeli Security Proposals

LA2010184393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] The PLO delegation to the talks in Taba has rejected the security arrangements for Jericho and Gaza proposed by the Israeli team today. A spokesman for the PLO, Salih Ra'fat told Qol Yisra'el that the Palestinians could not accept Israel's view of security in the two areas after a withdrawal of Israeli forces. He gave no further details but said the PLO would issue an official statement tomorrow.

An Israeli team, headed by Brigadier Tzvi Stauberg presented its views at the first session of talks today, which lasted about two hours. The spokesman of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the PLO in Taba, 'Ami Glusqa, says there may be a statement as soon as tonight on the impending release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails. Qol Yisra'el's correspondent in Taba says Israel will probably free a few hundred prisoners in the near future, and not thousands as previously reported.

Sha'th on Prisoner Releases, Settlements

JN2010181893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the head of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks, by Dov Rabinovich on 20 October, carried within "With the Events" program; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Sha'th] The subject that we are going to discuss is the release of detainees and captives, as it is important to us. We have an Israeli pledge to take executive steps on the ground. At 1600 today, we will discuss these steps, and we hope we will arrive at quick and practical results because I believe this is an important element in confidence-building in the next period. It is certain that if we take action on the ground, we will persuade our people and negotiators that the process is a real and credible one. We have to take step after step to promote the process and reach a comprehensive peace. In fact, each side has its own sensitivities, but they are not necessarily right. Sometimes, they are exaggerated, and each side should overcome them by persuading its people. When the two sides sign a peace plan, they should grant a general pardon to those who took part in the occupation and those who resisted it. This is how we should move from conflict to peace.

[Rabinovich] Dr. Sha'th, do you see a special problem regarding the Gaza Strip?

[Sha'th] I believe that the issue of settlements in Gaza is very complicated, compared to settlements elsewhere. We know that the final solution to the problem of the settlements should occur through negotiations. But there is a special problem with the Gaza settlements. There is a decision to withdraw from Gaza. At the same time, there is an agreement that the Israeli Army will protect the settlements. How can we achieve withdrawal while the armed forces keep their positions to protect the settlements? Therefore, this problem requires us to consider the Gaza settlements as a special case that should also be negotiated.

Committee Resumes Talks

NC2010193993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 20 Oct (MENA)—The Gaza-Jericho Committee resumed its meeting at the Taba hotel this evening. The subcommittee in charge of the Palestinian detainees' issue discussed the prospects of releasing them in the context of trust-building measures between the Palestinians and Israel.

The subcommittee in charge of residents, education, health, and water met to discuss the administrative aspect of the Gaza-Jericho agreement in preparation for the transfer of civilian authority to the Palestinians.

Nabil Sha'th, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's political adviser, chairs the Palestinian side of the committee while General Amnon Shahaq, Israel's deputy chief of staff, chairs the Israeli delegation.

MENA has learned that the Palestinian and Israeli delegations have decided to postpone discussing the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho until tomorrow, Thursday [21 October]. They are currently giving priority to the detainees' issue.

Comments by Sha'th, Other Members

NC2010210493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 20 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian side on the Gaza-Jericho Committee, has said that the Palestinian side found complete understanding from the Israelis on numerous issues discussed during the committee's two meetings today.

In a statement to reporters at the end of the committee's evening session, he said the Palestinian detainees' release topped the issues which the two sides discussed

today and stressed the importance of releasing all Palestinian detainees from all factions.

He said the Detainees Committee set up by the two sides is still discussing this issue to reach a final solution.

He said the Palestinian and Israeli sides exchanged views on the transfer of administrative authority in Gaza and Jericho from the Israeli to the Palestinian side and discussed issues relating to population, education, health, and water.

Dr. Sha'th added that the committee will resume its meetings tomorrow morning, Thursday, to discuss details of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and various security measures between the sides.

For his part, Jamil al-Tarifi, mayor of Ramallah and member of the Palestinian delegation, said the Palestinian side aims through the negotiations to obtain full sovereignty over Gaza and Jericho. He praised the spirit of cooperation shown by the Israeli side and noted that both sides have no objection to any member of the two delegations attending the talks.

He pointed out that the Palestinian side's demand for the release of the Palestinian detainees is a basic right, especially after the signing of a peace accord with Israel.

He said: We are seeking the release of all detainees, whether from (?Fatah), Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], or any other organization, because all are sons of the Palestinian people.

He explained that the negotiating process is based on the principle of reciprocal treatment in various security aspects. He said if the Israeli side demands the Israeli police's right to enter a liberated Palestinian territory to arrest a suspect, the Palestinian police also have the right to enter Israel to arrest any wanted suspect. He affirmed that the aim of the negotiations is to attain full independence and put an end to the occupation.

On the Jericho issue and the Israelis' and Palestinians' varying views on the area from which Israel is to withdraw in Jericho, al-Tarifi said the issue is not one of how many kilometers as much as it is a matter of mutual (?confidence) and sure desire on both sides to establish peace. He added: We demand the area stipulated in the agreement on principles.

Palestinians Submit List of Detainees

NC2010205293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1957 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 20 Oct (MENA)—MENA has learned that the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee meeting in Taba has submitted to the Israelis a list of 14,000 Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails to be released in the context of the peace agreement between the two sides.

MENA learned that the Israelis will discuss this list in preparation for the detainees' release in several stages.

Sha'th, Shahaq Meet Privately 21 Oct

NC2110091993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 21 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian side to the Gaza-Jericho Committee, held a closed meeting this morning with Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff and chairman of the Israeli delegation to the same committee, before the committee resumed its meeting today.

MENA has learned that during their meeting, the Palestinian and Israeli chief delegates will discuss the confidence-building measures, notably the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, in light of the Palestinian list submitted last night, which included approximately 14,000 names. MENA has also learned that they will exchange views on the transfer of civilian authority in Gaza and Jericho as well as the security concerns raised by the Israeli side during yesterday's meetings.

Official Stresses Release of Detainees

NC2110103693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0956 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 21 Oct (MENA)—Mr. Ziyad Abu-Ziyadah, head of the Palestinian side of the Detainees Committee—a subcommittee of the Gaza-Jericho Committee, affirmed the importance of releasing all Palestinian detainees from Israeli prisons as part of the confidence-building measures between the two sides.

Abu-Ziyadah said in statements to journalists before the committee meetings today in Taba that the Palestinian side will affirm during the meetings that releasing all Palestinian detainees is considered an "important" step within the framework of the peace agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

He added that the Palestinian side does not object to having the detainees released in stages, on the condition that the final outcome is the release of all prisoners, who are estimated to number 14,000.

Concluding his statement, he said that the Palestinian side affirmed the need to release all Palestinians, whether they belong to Fatah, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], or any other organization, because they are all Palestinians.

New Members Join Delegation to Taba Talks

NC2010175593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1109 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 20 Oct (MENA)—President Yasir 'Arafat has appointed Jamil al-Tirayfi, a Palestinian attorney and the mayor of al-Birah in the occupied territories, to the Palestinian delegation participating in the Gaza-Jericho Committee. Al-Tirayfi is known for his experience in negotiating with the Israelis.

'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, commander of the Palestine Liberation Army, also joined the delegation. Al-Turayfi and al-Yahya are expected to attend the second round of talks, which is scheduled to begin in Taba later today.

Meanwhile, Brigadier General Yomtof Samba, commander of the Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip, and Brig. Gen. 'Ado Zawhar, head of the civil administration in the West Bank, [names and titles as received] will join the Israeli side during this round of talks.

Freed Prisoner Abu Joins Delegation

LD2010200793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] The Palestinian leadership has instructed Salim al-Zuraq'i, who was released yesterday after spending 23 years in prison, to join the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that al-Zuraq'i will leave for Taba next Sunday to participate in the talks over the release of security detainees and prisoners.

Israeli Settlers Demonstrate During Taba Meeting

NC2010150593 Cairo MENA in English 1420 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 20 Oct (MENA)—Approximately 100 Israelis, residents of Jordan Valley settlements north of the Dead Sea, organized a demonstration in front of the Taba hotel, where the Palestinian-Israeli Gaza-Jericho Committee is meeting. They arrived from Elat in two boats festooned with slogans and Israeli flags and passed several times in front of the hotel.

They shouted slogans through loudspeakers urging the Committee to preserve their water rights after autonomy is implemented in the Jericho area. They carried placards that said in Hebrew: Peace and Security for the Jordan Valley.

The water problem is a vital issue being discussed by a subcommittee formed by the Gaza-Jericho Committee charged with handling residents' problems. Its members, who are Palestinian and Israeli water experts, are seeking to find a suitable solution that will guarantee that the Palestinian citizens will receive the water they need for irrigation.

Shahaq, Settlers' Representative Meet

NC2010163793 Cairo MENA in English 1720 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 20 Oct (MENA)—General Amnon Shahaq, Israeli deputy chief of staff and chairman of the Israeli delegation to the meetings of the Gaza-Jericho Committee, met after the committee's first session today with David Levi, representative of the Jordan Valley settlements committee. Levi earlier led a group of Israeli settlers in a demonstration in front of the hotel where the Gaza-Jericho Committee was meeting.

Shahaq declared that the Palestinians and Israelis are negotiating in order to establish regional peace and security and end violence and demonstrations. He called on the demonstrators to go to the Israeli Government's offices and submit their demands there.

Levi replied: We want to live in peace in the Jordan Valley. We are not ready to become a bargaining chip.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives Ross; Peace Process Discussed

JN2010210993 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received Dennis Ross, U.S. Middle East peace negotiations coordinator, and the delegation accompanying him. Ross asserted that the meeting was important and that it opened a new chapter in bilateral relations. During the meeting, they discussed the details of the peace process following the signing of the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement in Washington. They also studied the obstacles that should be overcome to make the agreement successful on the ground so that the Palestinian people can feel the essential changes serving the peace process in the region.

The two sides stressed the importance of progress on all tracks in order to reach a just and comprehensive peace in the region. They also stressed the need to establish an infrastructure for the Palestinian people and the new Palestinian national authority to achieve reconstruction and begin a new stage of relations. They also called for international supervision of the implementation of the agreement.

They also emphasized the need to take bold steps and confidence-building measures, especially those pertaining to the release of detainees and the return of the deportees and the refugees.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar praised U.S. President Bill Clinton's role in advancing the peace process and stressed the importance of the U.S. role as a cosponsor of the Middle East peace process. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Hold Meeting With Ross

LA2110074693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Last night, U.S. envoy Dennis Ross had a meeting with Palestinian representatives. They, too, discussed the implementation of the agreement on autonomy, but they maintained that there must also be progress on the Syrian track, as our reporter Mark Weiss heard from the leader of the Palestinian representatives, Hanan 'Ashrawi.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording] We are dealing with an interim phase in which we are trying to reach to the same level as the other tracks, but we don't think that there can be serious progress unless there is comprehensive progress. We think the implementation can take place because, as I said, we are talking about a transitional phase and not about permanent status, there already is a declaration of principles that is agreed and is in the process of being translated into details and into action. But, at the same time, no final agreement can take place unless it is comprehensive. So, it is essential for all tracks that there is movement on the Syrian track and genuine progress. [end recording]

This morning, Dennis Ross is having breakfast with Uri Lubrani, Israel's chief negotiator with the Lebanese. After a courtesy call on President 'Ezer Weizman, the U.S. envoy leaves for Damascus. He may return to Israel on Friday [22 October].

'Arafat at Odds With Rabin on Implementation Delay

JN2110092493 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-'Ammar, by Salim Badawi on 20 October; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Badawi] With the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the resumption of the second Taba meeting, Rabin comes out with new statements that it is difficult to implement the agreement by the specified dates. In your opinion, what are the obstacles?

['Arafat] I do not agree with him in this respect. The agreement in Taba, for example, needs only for the committees to begin their work. We have formed all our committees. We have set up the Taba committee and the Jericho committee. We have set up the negotiating delegation in Washington. We have also set up the economic delegation, and the delegation for the liaison committee, which recently met in Cairo, has also been formed. Therefore, there is no obstacle delaying or hampering the implemention of this agreement on the agreed upon date. I hope it is clear that any delay in the implementation of the agreement will have a negative impact on the entire process.

'Arafat Said To Appoint Intelligence Service Head

JN2110093793 Amman Al-Ufuq in Arabic 20 Oct 93 p 8

[Excerpt] Well-informed sources have told Al-Ufuq that the Egyptian leadership has succeeded in persuading Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat to appoint 'Atallah Muhammad 'Atallah, alias Abu-al-Za'im, as head of the Palestinian intelligence service. These sources confirmed that the appointment decision has already been signed and ratified by the Palestinian leadership.

Various agencies reported that 'Attallah indeed attended the PLO Central Council meetings which were held recently in Tunis to ratify the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Receives 'Important' Letter From King Husayn

JN2010211793 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, yesterday received an important letter from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan dealing with the current situation in the region as well as bilateral relations. The letter was conveyed by brother al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the Palestinian ambassador to Amman.

President Abu-'Ammar also held a telephone conversation with His Majesty King Husayn and discussed the latest developments in the region.

'Arafat on National Authority, Economic Aid, Refugees

JN2010112393 Amman Al-RAY in Arabic 20 Oct 93 p 14

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-'Ammar, by Sa'd al-Silawi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Silawi] We welcome brother Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, in this interview with Al-RAY. We would like to ask you first about your assessment of relations between the PLO and Jordan.

['Arafat] Our relations with Jordan are cordial, firm, and based on strong cohesion and cooperation. The Palestinian people will never forget His Majesty King Husayn's national stands and his support for the Palestine question and Palestinian rights. And this is neither strange nor new on the part of my brother, his majesty the king. On this occasion, I send my greetings, gratitude, and appreciation to his majesty and to the Jordanian Government and people who accompanied us throughout our long struggle to regain the national Palestinian rights.

[Al-Silawi] Mr. President: The meetings of the liaison and the Gaza-Jericho committees ended a few days ago. How do you view the results of these two meetings?

['Arafat] Both committees' meetings were positive, productive, and at the same time, joyful. I agreed with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to form these committees when I met him in Cairo. The Liaison Committee is cochaired by brother Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and the Gaza-Jericho Committee is cochaired by Dr. Nabil Sha'th and Israeli General Moshe Shahak. I can say that the meetings in their first stages were easy and positive.

However, we should not speak about these meetings only, but also look at the coming meetings. Can we implement on the ground our agreement on paper? This matter is important and basic.

[Al-Silawi] Mr. President: During the PLO Central Council's meetings you announced the establishment of a national authority headed by you. What are the tasks of this authority? Do you believe that the endorsed agreement will be implemented in the coming stage?

[Arafat] The national authority is like a government. However, we called it a national authority because it will exist in two areas. The first is the free area from which the Israelis will fully withdraw, that is, the Gaza and Jericho area; and the other area under this authority will be the interim self-rule area. Therefore, there was a compromise during the PLO Central Council's meeting because we could not announce a self-government or interim government. Thus, we announced a Palestinian national authority until further notice in accordance with our Central Committee's decision. And the PLO Central Council honored me and placed a new burden on my shoulder through its decision assigning me as the head of this national authority.

[Al-Silawi] Following the signing of the accord and the public Palestinian-Israeli meetings, do you believe that the state of antagonism between the Palestinians and Arabs on one side and the Israelis on the other will end? Or, should other steps be taken to end this state of antagonism?

[Arafat] Other steps must be taken. This is only the first step on the path toward establishing a Palestinian government on the national Palestinian soil with Jerusalem as the capital. The other basic point is the need to bring about a comprehensive Arab peace on all Arab fronts. This is the basis of all that we are undertaking. This is an agreement between us and the Israelis. We, the Palestinians, have a special situation because we will have an interim stage and a final stage. Here, we embarked on the interim stage, the first stage, while the talks with the other Arab parties will deal with the final stage.

[Al-Silawi] Brother Abu-Ammar: Two days ago, the U.S. Congress lifted a ban on contacts with the PLO. How do you view this move?

[Arafat] But it has a timeframe and some conditions, which we think are a little unfair. However, we regard the move positively and consider it a step forward.

[Al-Silawi] During the PLO Central Council session, there were reports about an attempt on your life. How true are these reports? Do you think you are still targeted, and are you afraid?

[Arafat] These reports are not true. I took some measures—I have the right to take some security measures—while the PLO Central Council was in session. That is it. As for the attempts, you know that they are countless. Sharon once acknowledged that he had tried to assassinate me 14 times. Have you also forgotten the strike against Hammam al-Shatt and also Tarshan in Lebanon. Was I not one of the targets? But they could not get me. I also clashed with them while they were attacking three of my brothers in al-Lakahani. But I, along with my eight bodyguards, had weapons and we managed to escape the siege by force. You should not forget the attempts in Lebanon and elsewhere.

[Al-Silawi] Brother Abu-Ammar: Throughout your struggle, you have been accorded a distinguished status by the Palestinian people. Today, we ask Yasir Arafat, do you think you have led this people today to a safe and stable shore and toward a peace that protects their rights?

[Arafat] Let me say one thing. In 1897, when a Zionist conference was held in the Swiss city of Basel, there was an argument about a land without a people and a people without a homeland. In 1917, this was confirmed during the meetings of European nations. In 1917, the Balfour Declaration was issued and the Sykes-Picot Treaty was signed, which divided our Arab countries. The Balfour Declaration also spoke about a Jewish national home. Then the Yalta agreements came after World War II, which endowed the establishment of the State of Israel. This decision was also endorsed by a UN General Assembly session because of what was called the partition decision. Our Palestinian people then went astray.

Before and after World War I and after World War II our Palestinian people had been crossed out. World War III between the two superpowers ended in the collapse of the Soviet Union. We must remember that this agreement has put our Palestinian people on the political and geographical map in the Arab region. In a few days or weeks, the Palestinian flag will be raised over the first liberated Palestinian territory in Gaza and Jericho. Afterward, the Palestinian flag will be raised over the rest of the occupied Arab territories. Meanwhile, there will be full withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, a partial withdrawal from populated areas in the West Bank, including cities, villages, and camps, to agreed-upon positions, redeployment of forces, and assuming a limited authority in these areas, while having full power and national authority in Gaza and Jericho. Is this not a miracle under the complex international circumstances? I can say that we have got the best that we can in light of the worst circumstances and times. We should not forget that our Arab nation is in disarray in the wake of the Gulf crisis, despite all the current attempts to heal the rift.

[Al-Silawi] You have said that you are going to move into Gaza and Jericho by the end of the year. Will you move your offices from Tunis to Jericho?

[Arafat] Most of them.

[Al-Silawi] But the infrastructure in the area is not ready. There are not enough airports and roads?

[Arafat] I spoke about this subject with U.S. President Bill Clinton, and he promised to help. He fulfilled this promise, and I thank him for this. He called for the donors conference, which was held in Washington earlier this month, and in which funds were raised for these objectives. It is true that the funds raised are less than expected, but the $2 billion and the $10 billion over a period of five years is something reasonable, and I thank all those who contributed, but this is not enough because we will have a homeland whose infrastructure is destroyed—it was destroyed by the occupation. We are in need of schools, universities, hospitals, roads, a port, water, customs, police and security, telecommunications, radio, and television. There are several basic needs that should be met because the occupation has left us with nothing, and we will have to begin from scratch. Therefore, I urge the Arab nation and all friends in the world to help us and not leave the Palestinian people to face their fate alone. Then we will be able to participate effectively in building the Arab society alongside our Arab nation.

[Al-Silawi] Brother Abu-'Ammar, there is an idea about an economic triangle composed of Jordan, Palestine, and Israel. What is your opinion on this subject?

[Arafat] Such talk about the triangle only exists in the Israeli press. Now you are asking me about what the Israeli newspapers say. I say clearly that there is no such triangle at all. I can proudly say that when the United States, Canada, the EEC, Norway, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Gulf states were selected to attend the donor states' meeting, in addition to Palestine and Israel, we objected and said Egypt and Jordan, in their capacity as our neighbors, should also attend. Furthermore, we have a resolution by the Palestine National Council on establishing a confederation between Jordan and Palestine in accordance with the free choice of the two fraternal peoples. Praise be to God, our demanded was met and Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Palestine became one Arab group, forming a bloc, and attended the conference with Israel and ranking donors. This is something that should be recorded for the Palestinian delegation. We refused to be alone with Israel.

[Al-Silawi] Brother Abu-'Ammar, the Palestinian citizen is suffering. Do you think that this agreement will ease the daily suffering of this citizen who has been homeless for 40 years?

[Arafat] It is not just suffering. The Palestinians are chased. They are denied entry at airports and are denied the right to have jobs as if they are condemned. I have the right to ask: Isn't time for this situation to end?

[Al-Silawi] Will the Palestinian authority issue passports?

[Arafat] God willing, yes. Everything will be realized and you should not be in a hurry. When the Palestinian flag is raised, many things will also rise with it.

[Al-Silawi] Some ambiguity is still shrouding the issue of refugees. Could you clarify the situation?

[Arafat] There are two types of refugees. Those from 1948, and I am one of them. Sad, and those from 1967 whose status will be decided not later than the beginning of the third year. As for the evacuees, who number 875,000, an Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli committee has been formed to work out plans for their return. These plans include various aspects as the returnees will need homes, job opportunities, and infrastructure services. We have to take into consideration the fact that their number is not small. As for the old refugees from 1948, their status will be determined according to Resolution 194 as decided by the refugee committee, which met recently here in Tunis.

[Al-Silawi] What about the Palestinian refugees in southern Lebanon and the reported plans to settle them there?

[Arafat] The same applies to them. However, there are those who are manipulating them by speaking about settlement. No Palestinian wants to be settled anywhere. How many times have we been offered a settlement somewhere. Sad? Have we not been offered a settlement in Sinai, Iraq al-Amir [in Jordan], and Lebanon? I was personally asked to settle in southern Lebanon. I am ready to give the names of those who proposed this, and some of them are still living. We firmly rejected this. The Palestinian people believe—and all must know this—that a stone in Palestine is worth the whole world. Glory to Allah who did take His Servant for a journey by night from the Sacred Mosque to the Farthest Mosque whose precincts We did bless. [Koranic verse] Wake up, Sad. Have you forgotten God's words about this land "wherein We sent down Our blessings."

[Al-Silawi] The Arab citizen who watched you on television shaking hands with Rabin in Washington would like to ask about your feelings at that moment. Was it the beginning of an end to a 40-year conflict with the enemy?

[Arafat] As I have already said, steps had to be taken in order to end the state of enmity. As for how I shook hands with Rabin, don't you recall how I have always called for the peace of the brave? I did not go to Washington on a picnic. I went there with my brother Abu-Mazin to sign the peace of the brave with the other party. This is similar to what happened between my brothers the Algerians and Charles de Gaulle, the Vietnamese and Americans, Gandhi and the British, Namibia, and other states. What is taking place in Palestine now is historically similar to what took place between Salah-al-Din and Richard the Lion-hearted.

[Al-Silawi] Do you think reaching an agreement with the Palestinians will facilitate or pave the way for a solution on the other tracks?

[Arafat] Of course and certainly. A solution on the Lebanese front is almost complete; only a few things remain. It is hoped that the subject of the Syrian-Israeli front will be solved soon, God willing. I can say that solutions on the Lebanese, Syrian, and Jordanian fronts

will be final. Everything now depends on recognition; recognition is linked to withdrawal. This is the equation in my opinion.

Senior PLO Official Killed by Gunmen in Gaza 21 Oct

Victim Had 'Close Links' With 'Arafat

NC2110101793 Paris AFP in English 1005 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, Oct 21 (AFP)—Palestinian gunmen shot dead a leading PLO official in Gaza City on Thursday [21 October], Palestinian sources said.

Asad Saftawi, a teacher and a senior member of Fatah, the main Palestine Liberation Organization group, had close links with PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

He died in the city's Shifa hospital.

Delegate Reacts to Assassination

JN2110123393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1109 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian negotiating team, by Sa'id Mu'addi, carried within "With The Midday Events"—live]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Ghassan al-Khatib, good afternoon.

[Al-Khatib] Good afternoon.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Ghassan: What is your initial reaction to the assassination of a prominent Gaza figure, Mr. As'ad al-Saftawi?

[Al-Khatib] This is a painful, tragic, and shocking incident. It is strange to our people's traditions, values, and ethics. It is also a very serious incident at this phase. I wish that all Palestinian factions and parties would join ranks to put an end to such methods in inter-Palestinian dealing because these methods are dangerous and may bring about disasters to our people at this phase, in which we are passing one of the most difficult tests in our history.

[Mu'addi] Does this incident, Mr. Ghassan, constitute an incorrect start as far as the other members of the Palestinian delegation are concerned? And do you think that it creates worries and suspicions and will affect the continuation of the peace process?

[Al-Khatib] I do not think that this incident will produce such results. I think, and hope, that the responsible parties, on both the popular and official levels, will come together to contain this incident and prevent any consequences that may lead to its development in a manner that runs contrary to our people's interests. The responsibility now lies on the shoulders of the popular and official organizations to contain the incident, investigate its details, and put an end to such things. But, this incident also tells us of the need to educate our people and their active elements on the various levels to make them renounce all forms of violence and adopt political dialogue, as well as the need to educate the masses to be prepared to listen to, and tolerate the other opinion in a democratic, tolerant way.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian negotiating team: Thank you very much?

[Al-Khatib] Your are welcome.

Hamas Denies Responsibility

TA2110112193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] As'ad al-Saftawi, a senior Fatah official, was murdered this morning in Gaza's Rimal neighborhood. Arab sources reported that he was shot by masked men and died of his wounds in Gaza's al-Shifa' Hospital. This is the third murder of a Fatah official in recent days.

Several Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists disclaimed any responsibility for the deed, and Gaza Strip residents believe that the background to the murder is internal PLO feuding.

Hamas Threatens To Execute 'Collaborators' in Gaza

NC1810213593 Paris AFP in English 1403 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Amman, Oct 18 (AFP)—Palestinian militants said Monday [18 October] they would still execute Palestinian collaborators in the Gaza Strip despite a warning from Yasir 'Arafat's mainstream PLO Fatah faction.

"Extermination of collaborators with Israel is a crucial part of the intifadah (uprising)," said Muhammad Nazzal, the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) representative in Amman.

He told AFP that the "collaborators" were recruiting dozens of Palestinians as "agents of the Israeli security apparatus."

Hamas opposes the peace deal with Israel signed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation on September 13, which grants autonomy to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Nazzal was responding to Gaza-based Fatah officials who on Sunday warned the movement against killing Palestinians.

Three men and a women have been killed as "collaborators" in the occupied territories over the past three days, and two of them belonged to Fatah.

'Izz-al-din al-Qassam, the armed wing of HAMAS, later claimed responsibility for three of the killings.

In his remarks Nazzal stressed his movement wanted to pursue the six-year-old uprising and the summary punishment of "Israeli agents."

"Even if Fatah, which until recently joined us in getting the agents, has committed itself to halting the uprising, we are still committed to its continuation," he said.

Investigations of Detainees Show Link to Abu Nidal

PM2010112593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

['Ali Nun report: "Investigations Involving Detainees in Tunis Prove Their Link With 'Abu-Nidal'"]

[Text] Tunis—Well-informed Palestinian circles in the Tunisian capital have confirmed that the investigations conducted with seven detainees in "Hammam al-Shatt" are continuing in the framework of the security measures taken recently around some Palestinian leaders, especially symbols of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

The circles pointed out to AL-HAYAH that the investigations involving these people have proved their link with the "Abu-Nidal" group and that six of them are Palestinians and the seventh holds the nationality of an Arab country. They said that these were elements in the guard belonging to PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and [PLO] Economic Department head Ahmad Quray' (Abu-'Ala').

The circles, which are taking part in the investigation conducted with the seven detainees, said that these people were under observation for quite some time because of their previous affiliations and contacts. And that they were arrested some two weeks ago. They confessed to the charges made against them.

However, the circles in question declined to reveal their link with a certain state. But they did confirm their link with the "Abu-Nidal" group. The circles also denied earlier reports that some of them had received money (some $50,000) as a first payment to assassinate "some symbols of the agreement." They said that investigations included others and that they are not a complete security investigation as much as "routine measures." And that the matter involves some 40 of the Palestinian officials' escorts and guards.

The circles emphasized the "importance and seriousness of the issue." However, they pointed out that some of the detainees sometimes exaggerated the matter and their position. The circles cited what President Yasir 'Arafat said in reply to a question on the recent attempt aimed against him which was foiled in Ankara, namely that if he wanted to talk about the attempts targeting him, "I would need to write a whole book."

The circles acknowledged that the "development" of negotiations with Israel required "a tightening of security measures" around 'Arafat and other leaders. However, they strongly denied that this included, among other things, bringing security elements from any Arab state to participate in the measures taken by the Palestinian leadership in complete coordination with Tunisian authorities. They stressed that earlier reports about this matter "are absolutely baseless."

'Abbas on Gulf Ties, Solving Problems With Israel

NC2110084693 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Mazin, in Abu Dhabi, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, carried within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Today, we have with us on the open line between Cairo and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] capital Abu Dhabi, PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas. We welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

['Abbas] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Could you tell us about the nature of your visit to the UAE?

['Abbas] The visit was arranged a few weeks ago, but we could only carry it out now. The visit aims to discuss the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Washington. We will also discuss relations between the UAE and Palestine, the UAE's positive and constructive stance on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, and the constant call for Arab unity and solidarity. Talks will also focus on the UAE's role in building the future Palestinian entity.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] You visited the Gulf region before. Now you are visiting the UAE and your tour will include visits to other Gulf countries. What is the significance of these visits?

['Abbas] Undoubtedly, the visits are very significant. Palestinian relations with the Gulf countries are gradually taking their natural course and returning to normal following the Gulf crisis and war. We hope, God willing, that all the reasons for the old estrangement will be eliminated. We have great hopes things will improve. We feel we have made great progress in this field. God willing, relations between the PLO and our brothers in the Gulf countries will soon be normal.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Yes. But my question was: Is the position of the Gulf region and countries now clear regarding Palestinian action at this stage?

['Abbas] The position is very clear. It took shape during the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] meeting, when the GCC announced its unanimous and serious support for

the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and these countries' individual positions. They clearly and publicly announced their support for the agreement and backing for the Palestinian people when they start to assume their authority and realize their entity.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] During its recent meeting, the PLO Central Council outlined the features of the Palestinian national authority. Could you brief us on some of these most important features?

['Abbas] The Palestinian national authority will be a part of the PLO. It will be formed mostly from brothers and sisters from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They will shoulder the direct burden and responsibilities inside the occupied territories. But there will be links between the inside and outside [of the occupied territories] to express the Palestinian people's oneness and unity on issues, because many issues require such solidarity between the people inside and outside.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What about the differences inside the Palestinian leadership, which some circles are discussing?

['Abbas] I cannot claim that the entire Palestinian leadership approves of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement, since some brothers have reservations and opinions that we respect and appreciate. But within the institutions, the majority opinion counts, and our brothers whose opinions run counter to the majority respect that majority and adhere to its decisions. If some voices discuss differences, these are differences that fall within the framework of democracy and the institutions. This does not disturb us.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What are the bases for their objections?

['Abbas] Some believe the agreement is not enough. Some believe it won't be implemented. Others worry about the future. Perhaps some of what they claim is legitimate. But, from my point of view, we needed to sign the agreement, because politics is the art of the possible. We have achieved the possible, not the overambitious. We must use this opportunity to entrench the Palestinian identity and entity.

Some brothers believe there are difficulties preventing this from happening. But we are betting on our ability and our people that we can overcome these obstacles.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Could we consider this a response from Abu-Mazin to those who oppose the agreement, which has ignored issues such as Jerusalem, the right to repatriation, and the settlements?

['Abbas] This is not true; It is inaccurate to say the agreement ignored these issues. It did not ignore particular issues. It put these points on its agenda to be discussed soon. If we read the text of the agreement, it says that the settlements, Jerusalem, the refugees, the borders, and relations with neighbors will be discussed as soon as possible, as long as the process does not go beyond the third year. We are saying that we have not ignored these issues, but scheduled our problems along with the Israelis. Some of these problems will be solved today, others tomorrow, and more the day after. Not all the problems between us and the Palestinians could be solved at once. Those who talk about solving them all at once want to solve nothing, because it is impossible to solve all problems at once. This is our experience.

We are following the policy of starting talks, achieving something, demanding, achieving a bit more, and then demanding some more. We advocate solving problems gradually. This is our stance.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] On the open line between Cairo and Abu Dhabi, we thank you very much and welcome you always to the Voice of the Arabs.

['Abbas] Thank you.

Sha'th on Normalization, PLO Dissolution

JN2010132493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Oct 93 p 21

["Text" of interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, by unidentified reporters; place and date not given]

[Text] [AL-DUSTUR] Syria is still furious because the Palestinian-Israeli accord was concluded behind its back. What do you think?

[Sha'th] Syria is not the only party which got angry. The negotiating Palestinian delegation got angry; the American delegation got angry. Rubinstein resigned in protest because he did not know what was taking place.

All those who were not aware of the agreement believed that their role was marginalized. This is incorrect and inaccurate.

The agreement placed Palestine on an equal footing with Syria and Jordan. What we achieved in Oslo was much better than what was offered to us in Washington and what they advised us to accept. (Sha'th refused to reveal the parties who gave the advice).

We want this agreement to be the beginning of a comprehensive peace for all and we insist on a comprehensive solution.

[AL-DUSTUR] Have you prepared adequate economic studies for the coming stage?

[Sha'th] Yes. The PLO Economic Department prepared the Palestinian plan, which was summarized and presented to the EC, the World Bank, and the donor nations. In accordance with this plan, which is the most comprehensive, $11 billion is needed.

The shortcomings of the World Bank study are political, because they do not include Jerusalem or the return of refugees. And the Harvard study, which I do not consider a basis for planning, presents ideas only.

There is also a Netherlands study in which I participated and contributed with the idea of Singapore. They devoted a whole chapter under the headline "Gaza-Singapore" for this idea. When these studies are implemented on the ground, the ideas and opinions will be tested.

[AL-DUSTUR] How do you view the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship in the future now that the confidence between the two parties is below expectations?

[Sha'th] Much was said following the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. What was said in Jordan was less than what was said in Syria or even among the Palestinians. And this is normal as long as the opposition does not turn to fighting.

We are earnest in our cooperation with the Jordanian brothers, and this cooperation will be tested when it is implemented.

His majesty the king received me the day before yesterday, and we spoke about creating a framework for joint cooperation. Problems are not in the interest of any party; they are not in our interest, in the interest of Jordan, or in the interest of the press.

(Sha'th criticized some articles in the Jordanian press. He said: We reiterate the need for rendering democracy in Jordan a success, but some articles are far away from this democracy).

[AL-DUSTUR] Will the Jordanian dinar be the currency in circulation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

[Sha'th] Yes, certainly. We will also cooperate with the Central Bank of Jordan. A people under occupation are not fully capable of managing their own affairs.

[AL-DUSTUR] Will Fatah become a political party, or an authoritarian party—Stalinist, in your own words?

[Sha'th] Fatah has led the struggle and the PLO for a long time. It played the role of a political party and participated in the elections of students, pharmacists, and unions, even during the time of armed struggle. Certainly, it will play the role of a political party in the coming stage, just like Hamas and others. What will be dissolved after establishing a Palestinian state on Palestinian soil is the PLO, not Hamas or Fatah.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, for example, says that decisions are made unilaterally in the PLO. Despite this, he remains head of the negotiating delegation. This means we have democracy. Imagine the head of the delegation of another country saying such a thing. Will this person continue to lead his country's delegation?

This does not mean I am completely satisfied with our leadership and democracy. When we go back to our land, we will practice democracy in the best manner possible. If the Palestinian state turns into a suppressive authority, I will be the first to go to prison. Freedom is achieved through real struggle. I am pleased with the method used by Hamas so far. They voice their opposition and argue. On the first day the agreement was signed, the morning hours were devoted to those who rejected the agreement to voice their opinion and the evening hours were devoted to those who welcomed the agreement. This is an innovative way.

[AL-DUSTUR] There are pressures on everybody to end the Arab economic boycott of Israel. How can this issue be dealt with? What about normalization?

[Sha'th] The stages of normalization should go hand in hand with the stages of peace. I am now negotiating with Rabin and sitting with him at one table to regain my rights. But does this mean that I should let him marry my daughter!

It is time the Arabs thought of Arab interests. They should not say: The PLO has signed, but what is it to us? That should not be the question. Egypt signed 2,000 pages with Israel on normalization, but actual normalization is linked to Arab interests.

[Reporter] What do you think of the Israeli court ruling ordering a halt to repair work on the Dome of the Rock?

[Sha'th] I do not recognize the Israeli court's jurisdiction over Jerusalem in the first place.

[Reporter] The agreement makes no reference to a state of Palestine.

[Sha'th] If this word were in the agreement, it would mean sovereignty and lodging the agreement with the United Nations immediately after signing it, and 'Arafat would go to Turkey and the PRC immediately and be received as a head of state. All these are symbols. Everything in the agreement is subject to negotiation and implementation on the ground.

Al-Hasan Says PLO's Approval of Accord 'Illegal'

NC2010120293 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 13 Oct 93 p 10

[Report by Sami Kulayb from Paris]

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan has affirmed that the PLO Central Council's approval in Tunis of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is illegal. He also affirmed that all reports about attempts to assassinate PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat are untrue. Al-Hasan said that there are attempts to settle the Palestinians in Lebanon and Syria.

Disclosing the circumstances under which he was prevented from attending the PLO Central Council meeting, al-Hasan said: As you know, Fatah is represented by five members in the Council. I have been one of these members for more than 10 years. However, the Fatah Central Committee this time stipulated that whoever wants to represent the movement must support and defend the agreement. I did not accept this because I believe that the way the entire political process is being conducted contravenes the resolutions adopted by the Fatah congress and

the Palestine National Council [PNC]. Therefore, it is the right of all of us to reach a rapprochement. Moreover, the diversity of views is not a bad thing because the one-view system pursued by the Soviet Union led to the collapse of the Soviet empire. Therefore, we must vote according to our political convictions.

[Kulayb] Were you officially informed of the decision to prevent you from attending the PLO Central Council meeting?

[Al-Hasan] When the entry and exit passes were sent to the security checkpoints, I was not sent the pass which would have enabled me to attend. So I understood that I had been excluded from the meeting. In any case, I will discuss this issue at the next meeting of the Fatah Central Committee.

[Kulayb] Did you try to solve this problem with the Fatah leadership?

[Al-Hasan] It was already too late. In addition, I believe that it is not the right of the PLO Central Council to discuss and approve this agreement because it is the jurisdiction of the PNC. The PNC did not authorize the PLO Central Council to replace it in approving the agreement. This is a problem between me and a number of my brothers because I believe that if we are easy on constitutional matters, in the end we will have no reference to which we can go when we disagree.

[Kulayb] In this case, was the approval illegal?

[Al-Hasan] No, it was unconstitutional. It will not be constitutional until the agreement is approved by the PNC.

[Kulayb] Can you briefly explain the points that you reject in the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Al-Hasan] I believe in a political settlement and in political work. I have no objection to the political process per se. However, I objected to the PLO's acceptance of the invitation to the Madrid conference. I then wrote a lengthy article entitled "Return to the Roots," in which I spelled out my viewpoint regarding a political settlement. Day after day my viewpoint is proving to be correct. I believe that we must immediately seek a final solution. We must sit and discuss the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 242. The current agreement and the previous Madrid paper do not speak one word about full Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank as mentioned in Resolution 242, which will apply to the Jordanian, Syrian, and Lebanese borders. Whoever reviews the Palestinian-Israeli talks and the text of the agreement can understand that this agreement has left the final solutions open to all possibilities. Through this agreement Israel behaves as if these are disputed territories, the fate of which will be decided at a later stage. This is a very grave matter. The words, occupied territories and withdrawal from the territories at the end of the interim period, are not mentioned in the agreement. Second, the Palestinian people managed through the intifadah to create a situation that made Israel enter into settlements. Israel's failure to expand militarily has also contributed to creating this situation. Added to all this is the Israeli economic crisis, which started in 1990 when its debts amounted to $25 billion, inflation hit 12 percent, and unemployment reached 15 percent. All these factors forced Israel to enter into settlements. However, the mistake is the lack of a sound policy that moves directly toward the final solution.

Third, during the next three years Israel will not be compelled to do anything regarding the Palestinians except to share the disbursing of financial assistance. Negotiations for the final solution will begin after three years. The agreement did not indicate that the solution will be based on an Israeli withdrawal. Why should we begin economic normalization with Israel before it agrees to a full withdrawal from our territories?

[Kulayb] The economic normalization has not yet started on the Arab level.

[Al-Hasan] This normalization will commence through the formation of joint committees.

[Kulayb] Talking about the Palestinian-Israeli track? [sentence as published]

[Al-Hasan] No. Why? It will start with Jordan. As long as the Palestinians have agreed, the Jordanian file will be open.

[Kulayb] 'Arafat was aware of the reservations that you mentioned. Why then did he take this step? Were his justifications personal or did the reality dictate such an agreement?

[Al-Hasan] In historic events there is no such thing as imposing a solution regarding the land and holy places. You either stand fast, confront, and rally forces or find an even-handed solution. When de Gaulle (late French president) came to power, he said: Take Algeria and give us the Sahara. The French military was very strong. The Algerians shouted that the Sahara comes first. When the French said: Take the Sahara but without enjoying any sovereignty, the Algerians said that the sovereignty over the Sahara is the sovereignty of Algeria. The Egyptians conducted negotiations for seven years over a hotel and a beach in Taba. This is our land. We want peace, and we want our land in return for peace exactly as was proposed by George Bush. The Israeli says he is ready to accept this on all fronts except on the West Bank.

As I said, there is a school, the school of self-impotence [Al-'Ajz al-Dhati]. It is the one that says that it is impossible to attain a better condition than the present one. It is very serious when the leadership thinks from the perspective of weakness and inability.

[Kulayb] What would the situation be within the Palestinian institutions, including the PLO, in light of the agreement?

[Al-Hasan] We must look beyond all that. We must consider the gains and losses of the cause. The land is the principal cause. You must remember that after the Madrid conference, the people danced and rejoiced. Four months after this conference, the delegation was ashamed to return to Jerusalem and to the occupied territories. After the agreement, they said that 700,000 refugees will return to their land. However, Rabin said in Cairo two days ago that the collective return of the refugees is idle talk, adding that the return will involve a few thousand only. Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin said: We are talking about the reunion of families, and that 89,000 refugees only will be allowed to return. Those refugees, who first supported the agreement, joined the ranks of the rejectionists after hearing Beilin's words.

All this makes us say that there is only one positive aspect of the agreement: It will bring economic assistance to the hungry inside the occupied territories. But the issue should not be confined to how to resolve the issue of the hungry people. It should include how to regain the land.

[Kulayb] If what you are saying is added to the information about the campaigns of arrests and assassination attempts, it would confirm that the Palestinian future is black.

[Al-Hasan] As for the first part of your question, there is a lot of daily information about attempts to assassinate brother Abu-'Ammar. But being a former official in the Fatah Movement security service, I can say that this information is 90 percent deliberate. This is because there are people who seek to gain money through this information. However, so far there is no serious evidence to support this charge. I believe that the reports on the situation in Tunis are very much exaggerated.

Take, for example, what was said about the arrest and interrogation of my colleagues. I confirm that none of them was arrested.

As to the PLO's political future, we must undoubtedly preserve it. I visited Damascus in response to an invitation from brother George Habash [secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine]. I met with Nayif Hawatimah [secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] and also met in Amman with the brothers in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. We discussed this issue at length and agreed that there is no alternative to the PLO, and we rejected inter-Palestinian fighting regardless of what happens because such conflict will give Israel the ideal excuse for staying in the territories. My difference with the PLO is my belief in the need to achieve national unity because we will not achieve anything without a national consensus.

[Kulayb] Despite all your efforts to unify the opposition and make it active, there are still many doubts that it will succeed?

[Al-Hasan] We believe that the (Palestinian-Israeli) agreement will not turn rivers into milk and honey. This will become clear after some time. It will become clear that the agreement has not ended the occupation and that the openings for ending this occupation are closed. Therefore, the picture will become clearer in six months. I agree with you that we cannot at present stand against the surge of the agreement because the United States, Israel, and the PLO Executive Committee, or what is left of it, are supporting the agreement. But the question is: Will there be achievements after a period of time that will convince the Palestinians that the problem has been solved? I personally do not think so. We will see that in six months the popular support for the agreement will weaken and the demand for imposing a withdrawal on Israel will increase.

[Kulayb] Yasir 'Arafat has been elected as chairman of the so-called Palestinian authorities or bodies. Why was the word government not used? Do you also believe that the election was legitimate?

[Al-Hasan] One month ago we heard that a government would be formed. We told them: They will not let you form this government because this is one of the principal bases of sovereignty, and the agreement has not mentioned your right to do this. Israel and the United States rejected this notion when it was raised. Therefore, there is silence now over the idea of a government. You know that an authority is something completely different from a government. There is the police authority, the judicial authority. Of course, we do not reject the existence of a Palestinian authority under President Yasir 'Arafat, but we ask: Is this the objective and the way leading to the state and the Israeli withdrawal, or is it the way to the management of the population's living conditions?

[Kulayb] The Arab cordon states, or more accurately what is left of them, fear the establishment of an anti-Arab Israeli-Palestinian cooperation. What is your view on this? Could it happen?

[Al-Hasan] This is the Israeli objective. The Israelis are now working to create economic Palestinian-Israeli relations that will make the Palestinian economy a satellite of the Israeli one. Therefore, the Palestinians will not be able to demand independence from the Israelis in the future and hence will be forced to have an economic alliance with it against the Arabs. But the Palestinians and Arabs will resist this, and we will not accept it.

[Kulayb] You have good knowledge of the Palestinian diaspora. How do you envision the future of the Palestinians outside [the occupied territories], especially with regard to settling them in the countries they are residing in?

[Al-Hasan] There is a well thought out plan to settle the Palestinians, especially those in Lebanon and Syria, because they constitute the main body of the Palestinians abroad. This is also one of the issues that the PLO Executive Committee must draw up plans for that reject that kind of settlement because there is no alternative to

the land of Palestine. Secondly, the Palestinians should not become a party to the internal policy of any Arab country as this will cause big problems. We categorically reject this.

[Kulayb] My last question is: How will you live as opponents following 'Arafat's return, if he does return, to Gaza and Jericho?

[Al-Hasan, laughing] This is, in fact, a basic issue. We will see what happens then.

Jibril Outlines PFLP-GC's Stance, Programs

JN2010140793 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 18-24 Oct 93 pp 21-22

[Interview with Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, PFLP-GC, by Ibrahim Hamidi, in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] [Hamidi] You have declared your opposition to the Gaza-Jericho accord. What has the PFLP-GC done to face this agreement?

[Jibril] First of all, I must say that what happened was not a peace agreement, nor was it an agreement between the Palestinians and the Israelis. This is because a peace agreement will be in the interest of the warring parties. We have an agreement that caused great harm to the past, present, and future of the Palestinian people. Moreover, the agreement is between 'Arafat and Rabin, and not between the Palestinians and the Israelis, because seven million Palestinians were not asked their opinion of the agreement. Only a few people, supported by the West, produced this agreement. Based on this, I feel that I am responsible for large sectors of the Palestinian people. Had I thought that 50 percent of the Palestinian people supported the agreement, I would have kept silent.

As for practical steps, we have escalated action against the enemy inside and outside the occupied territories since the accord was signed. We have not responded to 'Arafat's public and secret calls for stopping operations, even though his security agencies have given full information about us to Israel. We will pursue our struggle, and we will pursue public mobilization against him. We will make the people aware of the dangers of the agreement which 'Arafat is trying to embellish. This is in addition to unified political action, along with the 10 factions, to foil the treasonous agreement and topple those behind it.

[Hamidi] What should 'Arafat do to win Jibril over to his side?

[Jibril] 'Arafat has done a great deal to win my personal satisfaction, even to get a smile from me. However, I did not respond because it is not a personal issue. 'Arafat has committed treason and is unable to reverse his course of action, and our people will take him to task, sooner or later.

[Hamidi] Do you think the Palestine question would be in a better shape if 'Arafat were removed?

[Jibril] 'Arafat has caused great harm to the intifadah. Had it not been for his destructive role against the intifadah, it would have made more achievements. He has also caused harm through his bad relationship with the Syrian and Lebanese leaders and the stupidities he has committed.

[Hamidi] So you think it is better for him to go?

[Jibril] After trying him and punishing him for his crimes. We need a long time to rebuild what he has destroyed. He has harmed our past, present, and future.

[Hamidi] If Syria signs a declaration of principles with Israel, will you continue to oppose the Gaza-Jericho accord?

[Jibril] There is exaggeration in how far progress on the Syrian track will affect our position. What we are engaged in is only democratic action and freedom of expression. No one prevents us from talking in our camps. Our opposition to the agreement does not stem from the Syrian or any other Arab position. King Husayn has signed a declaration of principles with Israel, but the 10 factions exist in Amman. Also, all the leaders of these factions go to Amman except for myself. If I could go to Amman, we would have held the last meeting in this historic capital.

Some rulers claim things which they do not have. I challenge any Israeli to wander around in Damascus, Amman, Baghdad, or Beirut. The security agencies will not be able to protect him.

[Hamidi] How did you overcome the differences in the views of the 10 factions regarding the method to face the agreement?

[Jibril] We overcame the points of disagreement and the obstacles that existed in the past, and we drew up a plan of action. As is well known, George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, were the life buoy for 'Arafat, but they have become convinced that he had betrayed and deceived them.

[Hamidi] The opposition is talking about a national conference when 'Arafat has already started practical steps in Gaza and Jericho. Are you not afraid that he will impose a fait accompli?

[Jibril] No doubt there is now a conflict between two programs, ours and 'Arafat's. We do not underestimate his program because he is supported internationally, by Israel and the Arabs. As for our program, it depends on Palestinian and Islamic popular bases. We have decided

to prepare for holding national conferences wherever there are Palestinians. Within a month and a half, we will hold a national conference to elect an alternate leadership for the first time since 1948. Also, the preparatory committee will draft a political program modeled after the PLO's charter to be proposed to the conference to elect a new leadership for the Palestinian people. We will also escalate the revolution in the occupied territories, and the next stage will witness military escalation.

[Hamidi] Do you think this escalation may turn into a clash with the police force and, consequently, into an inter-Palestinian conflict?

[Jibril] There is no doubt that 'Arafat and Rabin have agreed to suppress the opponents and protect the settlers. Rabin announced this and said 'Arafat will be put to the test and will be the ally of the coming phase. He will enter Gaza and Jericho armed to his teeth, first to suppress the people and second to buy them. We have not feared Israel and its might, and we will not fear 'Arafat and his mercenaries. On the contrary, it might be an opportunity to take the police force weapons at night for fighting purposes and return them at daytime, or seize these weapons by force.

[Hamidi] Do you expect a collision between the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and the police force in the territories?

[Jibril] First of all, there is an attempt to depict Hamas as larger than its real size. An Israeli plan says danger comes from fundamentalism and Islam in Palestine is part of this danger. What you see inside is not only Hamas.

[Hamidi] Can 'Arafat control the opposition bases through money?

[Jibril] You will see that 'Arafat will not provide security to the Israelis. His ability, as well as the money he will bring to Gaza and Jericho are being exaggerated. It looks as if he will be loaded with money. Experts estimated that the occupied territories need $12 billion, but 'Arafat could thus far secure only $1.2 billion. It is in Israel's interest not to see money flow into the occupied territories so that people will go to the East bank and the Gulf states. On the popular level, money could be important in issues that are not as clear as this agreement. Consequently, money is not important and we do not need it to bribe our people; 'Arafat's treason is clear to them.

[Hamidi] Where do you get your funds, especially since some organizations have stopped receiving funds from the PLO?

[Jibril] We do not need money to buy consciences. We can continue with little money. I defy 'Arafat to carry out a suicide operation against Israel. I have hundreds of people who are ready to do so because they are not mercenaries.

[Hamidi] What is the nature of the relationship between the Popular Front, Hizballah, and Iran?

[Jibril] We maintain good relations with Iran and Hizballah. I wonder if such a relationship is prohibited. History and creed combine us with them.

[Hamidi] Some spoke about an attempt to assassinate 'Arafat.

[Jibril] Let them live in fear. 'Arafat will be taken to task by the wife, sister, daughter, or son of a martyr. I received hundreds of letters from Arab and Palestinian youths expressing readiness to carry out a suicide attempt against 'Arafat. This means our people are in a healthy condition. 'Arafat has recruited mercenaries to kill with weapons equipped with silencers.

[Hamidi] What was your reply to these letters?

[Jibril] It is a popular current, and nobody can stop it. We do not know when they will hunt him down. Once this is done, none will read the first sura of the koran to invoke mercy on his soul. I recall that when he survived the plane crash in the Libyan Sahara a year ago, I said God willed that he remains alive so that no one would invoke God's mercy on his soul, not even his wife.

[Hamidi] Suppose the results of the popular conferences and referendums showed that a low majority of 51 percent of the people accept the agreement, what will your position be, especially since opinion polls show that the majority of those opposing the agreement have not read it?

[Jibril] This supposition is not accurate because the overwhelming majority reject the agreement even for personal reasons. Others do not care. Therefore, we will hold popular conferences to explain the details of the agreement.

'Abd-al-Shafi Voices Skepticism About New Front

LA2010155993 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 Oct 93 pp 1, 13

[By Salih Hamad]

[Text] Gaza—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has called on the opposition Palestinian factions, especially those within the PLO's framework, to act and work from inside the PLO's institutions, such as the Executive Committee and the Central and National Councils. By so doing, he said, they will affirm their right to democratic practice and participation in decisionmaking, in embodiment of the Palestinian democratic approach.

'Abd-al-Shafi said that this is the shortest road to achieving results that serve the Palestinian cause. He added that any other course will not bring about practical results but will only increase Palestinian fragmentation.

'Abd-al-Shafi voiced skepticism about the benefit of establishing a National Islamic Front with the aim of building the PLO on new bases. He expressed the fear that such an

approach would lead to unceasing inter-Palestinian conflicts without achieving any positive results.

'Abd-al-Shafi renewed his criticism of the Gaza-Jericho accord and said: I am still distant from this accord, which, as far as we are concerned, contains many negative points. These have now begun to surface, particularly with regard to the issues of the detainees and those displaced after 1967. These issues are not supposed to be subject to any accords, nor be discussed in the committees stipulated by this accord. Moreover, the accord does not contest the issue of settlements, and Israeli claims that the occupied territories are not under occupation.

'Ashrawi Advocates Working With Opposition

PM2110111093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Oct 93 p5

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral negotiations with Israel, by 'Ali Nun and Rashid Khashanah in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAYAH] What is expected of the next round of bilateral negotiations to be held in Washington?

['Ashrawi] There has been a qualitative change in the nature of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. There has been a shift from the phase of political discussions, public debate, and deadlock to an executive phase, that of operating within the general framework of the declaration of principles and translating it into practical steps. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Does this mean that the role of the Palestinian negotiating delegation is at an end?

['Ashrawi] In a way, yes. The delegation as such, in its composition, is finished but not as individuals because these individuals will move to other tasks as necessary depending on their qualifications and specializations. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Will Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat move to the occupied territory soon?

['Ashrawi] Yes, he will move to Palestine, to a territory that will not be occupied. The question of when has been given more attention by the media than necessary. After the withdrawal Anu-'Ammar ['Arafat] will return to Palestine.

[AL-HAYAH] The Israelis are talking about the time factor and the need to adhere to the timetable set for the work of the liaison and withdrawal committees. Would that become a factor putting pressure on the Palestinian delegation?

['Ashrawi] The withdrawal should begin in the middle of December and end not later than next April according to the agreement. We are committed to the timetable and would even like to speed it up. It is a matter of implementation. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] There are some ambiguous points in the agreement described by some as "positive ambiguity" relating to the settlements and Jerusalem. There is a 180-degree difference between the Palestinian and Israeli positions. Rabin has recently "amended" his position and said that Jerusalem was the "unified" capital of Israel and would remain so. These are large landmines.

['Ashrawi] Quite so, these are mines but what shows Rabin's claim to be untrue is the fact that the issue of Jerusalem has been placed on the agenda for the final negotiations. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Do you expect the settlements around Jerusalem and in the West Bank to be dismantled?

['Ashrawi] Of course. Where the settlements are concerned there is now a new reality which we have to think about with a different outlook from that of the past, in the context not of occupation and continued occupation but of Israeli withdrawal. There will now be a Palestinian entity which will consist of Jericho and Gaza at the beginning and then extend to include the rest of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967. That means that, under the new reality, the settlement activity will not only stop but will also recede, in my view. [passage omitted]

I believe that there will be a reversal process as far as the settlements are concerned. This really means that, in the ultimate solution, the settlements must disappear. Their dismantling is essential.

[AL-HAYAH] Including the large settlements around the main Palestinian cities in the West Bank?

['Ashrawi] Of course. The settlements were planted as a wedge, firstly to prevent any possible future agreement and, secondly, to prevent, through land partition, the establishment of a Palestinian state, and also to control the various areas and resources and impose an Israeli fait accompli. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAYAH] Do you fear that the escalating Palestinian opposition to the agreement might reach the point of explosion on the ground?

['Ashrawi] I do not fear real conscientious and principled opposition which voices apprehensions about and rejection of the agreement. We all have apprehensions. That is clear but it is a question of how opposition is expressed and what kind of opposition it is. I feel reassured about the opposition inside [the occupied territory] because that is governed by an agreed code of honor acknowledging that the right to disagree is a basic natural right which should be respected and we have no right to use force against it. Secondly, there is a highly responsible way of dealing [with the opposition]. If the coming authority, or rather if the next phase is going to be the phase of building the democratic authority, of plurality, and respect for the opposite opinion and the right to disagree, then it would be possible not to confront the opposition but to work with the opposition at a certain stage. [passage omitted]

I believe that the building process is not a question of for or against. It is a process which should also include all the opposition political organizations. When the time comes and when these organizations realize that the building process concerns all the Palestinian people, they will demonstrate a sense of responsibility and agree to participate. It is our duty to urge them to participate.

[AL-HAYAH] Including Hamas?

['Ashrawi] Including Hamas, of course. Opposition is a right and that applies to Hamas and the Islamic Jihad [al-Jihad al-Islami]. Our al-Jihad is different from the al-Jihad organization abroad.

[AL-HAYAH] The Israeli Government does not seem to be helping you on that score and continues to intensify oppression and apply the same measures as if nothing has happened.

['Ashrawi] Yes, that is true. Rabin's thinking is military not political and he always prefers to act as defense minister not as prime minister in the political arena, in the negotiations, and in relation to Palestinian public opinion.

[AL-HAYAH] He also thinks more about Israeli opposition than Palestinian opposition.

['Ashrawi] Naturally. That is why we should give Palestinian opposition priority by listening to it in a responsible manner, by absorbing the reasons for the opposition, and by understanding the opposition's views in an attempt to close the gaps in the agreement and to improve performance.

[AL-HAYAH] It seems that Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi [Palestinian chief delegate to the bilateral negotiations] played a part but was unsuccessful.

['Ashrawi] That is true. It seems that he did not succeed. He talked not to Hamas but to the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] and the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine]. I believe that the positions of the two fronts are temporary and that, with time and as the building process begins, they will become agreeable. What is important as far as we are concerned is to address the differences responsibly and give the others a chance. [passage omitted]

PLO Assets Sold; Fatah Military Apparatus Dismantled

NC2010130893 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 13 Oct 93 pp 1, 11

[Report by Yasir al-Hariri]

[Text] Well-informed sources have disclosed that Colonel 'Ala', who was the longtime commander of Fatah's military wing, visited Lebanon recently, heading immediately for the south. He chose to reside in Tyre during his three-week stay in the south, in view of the understanding he has with the PLO official in the region, Lieutenant Colonel Sultan Abu-al-'Aynayn. The same sources added that, acting on instructions from the PLO chairman, Col. 'Ala' did the following:

—Through a power of attorney, he sold most of the PLO-owned institutions and assets. The proceeds of the sale were transferred to a Cairo bank account in the name of the son of a senior official in the Palestine National Council.

—He conducted a census of the Palestinians from Gaza who reside in Lebanon and those unaccounted for in the census conducted by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and the Lebanese Government with a view to transferring them abroad. It has been learned that the census also included some Fatah cadres from outside Gaza and Jericho and others who are among the 1948 Palestinian refugees, who are indispensable to the PLO. Since there are Lebanese arrest warrants against them, they will be allowed to leave using single-trip passports in accordance with an agreement currently being negotiated with the Lebanese authorities.

—Col. 'Ala' briefed the Fatah leaders in Tyre on the instructions of the Central Command and the possibility of handing over their light weapons to the Lebanese Army at a later stage.

—He compiled a list of 700 Fatah officers, mostly from the Gaza region, to be among the first group of officers from Lebanon to attend a training course for the Palestinian police force.

—He supervised the dismantling of Fatah's military apparatus and the termination of the work of its affiliated institutions.

The same sources added that during a meeting with the pro-'Arafat PLO cadres, Col. 'Ala' explained the goals of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. However, he did not visit the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, on the advice of pro-'Arafat security leaders. It has been learned that among the names suggested to command the Palestinian police force in Gaza and Jericho is 'Umar Nawfal, a senior officer who belongs to Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh's wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Nawfal has held several key posts in Lebanon.

It is worth noting that Col. 'Ala's visit to Lebanon is the first in approximately two years since the Lebanese Army entered East Sidon.

Algeria

Parties View Proposals for National Dialogue

LD1810194593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Great efforts and immense endeavors are under way to pull the country out of the political crisis it has been in for some time. These efforts have come after moves on the political scene, particularly between the Higher State Council and the various political groups, with the aim of achieving national accord through holding a national conference. An independent committee, set up to convene the conference and to see to its success, has recently begun contacts with some groups. On this topic and on the proposals to pull the country out of its crisis, national radio has monitored the reactions and views of some political groupings. Abdelmajid Amirat, leader of the National Movement for the Renewal of Algeria [MNRA], states his party's proposals:

[Amirat] "Concerning the national conference preparatory committee, we had hoped that it would include representatives from political parties, to take into account those parties' wishes. We asked for dialogue to be a real one that brings together all Algerians to the same table, so we can find out everyone's stance. That is why we are still awaiting a decision on whether to participate. I think that the solutions are clear. The only solution is dialogue. The national conference has to be a success, otherwise there could be a split among Algerians and understanding could collapse, which would lead to the continuation of violence. We think that through dialogue there will be solutions to this crisis."

The deputy leader of the Movement for Islamic Society [Hamas], Abdelhamid Medaoud, lists the Movement's proposal for getting the country out of its crisis:

[Medaoud] "Regarding the topic of searching for a way out of the crisis, Hamas has always taken the lead in encouraging dialogue and participation in it, as well as in national reconciliation. We consider the phase of forming a committee, in charge of preparing for dialogue and for the national conference, a link in the chain. Therefore, we welcome that committee. Our stance on dialogue has always been that it is necessary, because it is the only way out and a civilized means that could take us out of our crisis. We are still waiting to find out what powers the committee will have and what topics it will tackle. With God's will, we will be ready to express our views and stances so as to get Algeria out of its crisis."

Cheikh Abdallah Djaballah, leader of the Ennahda Movement, proposes a number of solutions to the country's major political topics:

[Djaballah] "As a matter of principle, we encourage the idea of a committee set up by the Higher State Council. However, we call for it to be expanded at a subsequent stage so as to include members from the active sides in the dialogue, because we think that would be one of the main guarantees of the national conference's success. As to what we see as a solution to the current crisis, we think that the crisis has several fundamental causes; foremost among them is the complicated problem of the divorce between the authorities and the people. In our opinion, that complicated problem could only be solved through two essential matters at least. First, the conference should include the focal point of the national project. Second, the institutions governing the transitional period should, in our view, be capable of providing tranquillity for all members of Algerian society, to win their confidence and to pave the way for a return to the electoral process. We are of the view that this matter should be preceded by a number of measures likely to restore tranquillity to the citizen and to the sides that are party to the dialogue, in a way that strengthens their determination to work seriously for the success of the national conference. As to the subject of participation, and as a matter of principle, we are for participation in the national dialogue. That stance is confirmed through our meeting with the committee."

RCD Comments on National Conference Committee

LD1910135693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] In a statement delivered to Algiers radio, the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD] considers the installation of the committee for preparing the national conference to be a normal and necessary matter for any initiative.

The RCD stresses that the presence of this body and its being granted all prerogatives are not considered enough to lift the ambiguity and contradictions surrounding the essential choices for building tomorrow's Algeria.

The statement concludes by saying that the success of this committee's work is linked to the clarification of the political will, which is the minimum requirement for the republic's spirit.

EC Grants $35 Million for Agriculture

LD2010160793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] The EC's Mediterranean basin committee yesterday agreed in Brussels to grant $35 million to finance agricultural projects in Algeria. Official sources in Brussels clarified that the grant comes within the framework of the fourth protocol between the EC and Algeria, for the period 1992-96.

It should be mentioned that the project is related to a special farming project to import basic production equipment for the agricultural sector in Algeria. Algeria's Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development is supervising the project, which involves both public and private sectors.

Diplomatic sources in Brussels clarified that this grant could be considered the initial result of a recent visit by Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri to Brussels.

Japanese Bank To Loan $400 Million

LD2010134293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Excerpt] SONATRACH [Societe Nationale pour la Recherche, la Production, le Transport, la Transformation, et la Commercialisation des Hydrocarbures] and Japanese Export-Import Bank signed in Tokyo today two loan agreements totaling some 42,244,000,000 yen, that is more than $400 million. The loan agreements were signed by Abdelhak Bouhafes, SONATRACH's director general, on the Algerian side, and by Mitsuhide Yamagushi, director general of the Export-Import Bank of Japan, on the Japanese side. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Labor Leader on Interrogation, Government

NC2010170293 Cairo AL-SHAB in Arabic 15 Oct 93 p 5

[Article by Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn: "We Said It Is a New September... the Threat Is Directed at the Entire Opposition"]

[Excerpts] Is the man who follows the good pleasure of God like the man who draws on himself the wrath of God and whose abode is in Hell?—a woeful revenge. We grant them respite that they may grow in their iniquity, but they will have a shameful punishment. [Koranic verses]

Brother believers: After two days of humiliating and unjust treatment and being interrogated about what we had written, we were released as you know last Sunday evening [10 October]. On Tuesday, as you know, they summoned for interrogation [Labor Party leader] Ibrahim Shukri, shaykh of the mujahidin and the lofty symbol of Islamic and nationalist action (and he would have been taken for interrogation had he not been invited at that precise hour to the president's swearing-in ceremony at the People's Assembly!). I began to write this article after they informed us that we were summoned again for interrogation by State Security prosecutors on Thursday. What interrogation, gentlemen? Those summoned were our distinguished writer Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad, our young colleagues Salah Budaywi and 'Ali al-Qammash, and the writer of these lines.

In his latest speech, the president said: "The fact that there are people in the opposition who say no never troubles me, because this is the nature of the democratic system. I am also perfectly convinced that absolute unanimity is a very difficult matter, indeed impossible, in this age." This is true: Universal approval of a person is impossible, not only in this age but in every age. It is something never achieved even by prophets and great leaders. Nevertheless, the "miracle" happened and the president obtained something approaching a unanimous vote of approval. [passage omitted]

The president thanked those who voted no, because these people were doing their duty and gave him an opportunity to seek out where he had made mistakes and what his shortcomings were. This also should have made us happy and hopeful of better things except that our interrogation was entirely about the "no" that we had dared to utter. The articles we were interrogated about had been written as a response to the campaign of election by acclamation [mubaya'ah]. We wrote them to explain the shortcomings and errors that made us oppose the president's reelection to a third term.

The president promised to carry out changes and reforms. He said: "Some, including myself, have demanded a new program of action for a new presidential term." However, he postponed any detailed discussion of this program. We know that the program has already been drawn up and approved by the president (has not the government actually committed itself to the next stage's program in concert with the IMF, the World Bank, and the U.S. Government?). According to precedents, no official Egyptian department will be allowed to learn what has actually been agreed upon. Rather, the government will surprise us with new measures and laws that will be issued separately to appear merely coincidental but that will be in fact parts of a complex whole, arranged according to the scenario prepared by international parties. This will become apparent in a gradual rise in prices (coupled with the successive abolition of subsidies). It will influence currency, investment, and tax laws and produce a law raising housing rent. Labor laws will be unfairly amended. Customs tariffs will be reduced so that the maximum will be 50 percent instead of 80 percent. The list of foreign commodities that may not be imported will be abolished (78 commodities), thus ruining our domestic industrial and agricultural projects. This economic ruin will be compounded by the privatization program that the government has committed itself to expedite (without telling the public about its limits and restrictions). For this purpose, investment funds have been created to facilitate the transfer of national industries to foreign owners, including Zionists. Add to this the ploy of selling off projects in return for having debts written off. This process helps the transfer of national capital to foreign hands at a very cheap price.

The features of the next stage's economic program are well-known (despite the government's intentional attempt to conceal the facts). International parties formulated this program to promote the objective of establishing "Greater Israel," namely the Middle East market.

It is in this context that we can now understand the remark in the president's speech that the next stage's program will be a continuation of the earlier one. It will consist of continuing—but with greater momentum—the economic policies imposed on us by foreign parties. [passage omitted]

The government policies were disastrous. Worse yet was its incompetence in implementing them. The president, in his speech, referred to the sorry state of public services, the absence of accountability, and the poor level of coordination and cooperation between government departments. You would think that these are enough reasons to bring down any government. Still, the man responsible for this deterioration in the performance of the executive branch kept his job. How, by God, can we expect anything good to come out of this? [passage omitted]

During the interrogations the prosecutors asked us: Why do you attack the prime minister and government figures? Our answer was—and we reiterate it here—that we do not make any personal attacks on anyone. We do not ridicule any individual. We merely oppose those policies that we see as harmful to public interests and the officials who propagate them. We have repeatedly written that 'Atif Sidqi is unfit to be prime minister. It is a dangerous thing for a country to place a man who is unfit for leadership in its topmost office. The lack of leadership disrupts everything.

The post of prime minister is by nature a political one. The prime minister should be able to take in everything that goes on in the country and form an opinion on a wide range of matters, including education, culture, developments in the region, economy, security, etc. Has anyone in the past seven years ever suspected 'Atif Sidqi to be a man of political vision? [passage omitted]

The reappointment of 'Atif Sidqi as prime minister was a disappointment for anyone who might have entertained any hope for the future. The continued leadership of Sidqi, combined with what we gather from Mubarak's speech and other developments, does not lead us to expect any "improvement" in economic policy. How about the political aspect?

The opposition parties have always maintained that political reform should precede any other reform. The government, for its part, insisted that economic reform is a top priority and that calls for political reform are a waste of time.

The president in his recent speeches, including the one at the People's Assembly, modified his position, bringing the political aspect to the fore. But, whereas opposition parties see political reform as a matter concerning the Constitution and fair elections, the president sees political reform differently. For him, the task of political reform is to stamp out terrorism and start "a constructive dialogue on the priorities of national work."

The president, though convinced that political reform is a top priority, is still careful to avoid any mention of the Constitution and electoral guarantees. Any talk about democracy ignoring these two basic points is useless. However, we have noticed that the president speaks about democracy as a task that is over and done with. In his recent speech, he said "we have traveled most of the way toward establishing full democracy." And, in case that this "most of the way" phrase may suggest to some people that a dialogue about elections and the like is in the offing, the president was careful to banish any such ideas. He quickly added that Egypt has successfully completed "the stage of moving from totalitarian society to democratic society." In other words, the case is closed. [passage omitted]

We support a free dialogue among equals, not one whose terms and priorities are dictated by the ruling party. We are for a dialogue in which all sides are involved, voluntarily accepting what they think is good and freely rejecting (without fear of punishment) what they may not agree with.

If dialogue is conducted in this way, it may end with an agreement on general principles without going into minor details about which party programs necessarily disagree. The general principles are only morally binding to the parties; they must not be left to a government committee to interpret and no party must be dissolved because the government considers it in violation of these principles!

Yes, it is fine to hold a dialogue on a number of general principles, such as the implementation of the Islamic Shari'ah, the entrenchment of national unity, the link between social justice and development, the controls on government integrity and financial policy, the importance of independent economic policies, the concept of security and support for the Armed Forces, the standards of our Arab and international policies, and so on.

It is fine to set general rules to guide political and party work, but as I said, this should not mean that the parties will have to accept the interpretation of the government (and its security agencies) of these rules. Each party must have the right to interpret general orientations in accordance with its beliefs and programs. Otherwise, the opposition would disappear and the purpose—in the name of dialogue—would be to incorporate all parties into the National Democratic Party. [passage omitted]

The interrogation (accompanied as it was with humiliation and departure from traditions) represented a message of threats to all nationalists and democrats, opponents and otherwise. Some believed that the interrogation was only a foolish, unmeasured step by security agencies, and we wished to accept the argument. But the issue developed in a way that proved that the interrogation was an intentional and calculated policy designed to spread fear so that everybody (through the dialogue they are talking about) will accept having their hands shackled and their opposition ended without the need of an explicit law abolishing parties and blatantly preventing their activities.

The essence of the interrogation is very serious; it incriminates one for merely expressing an opinion in the affairs of the people and the country.

Remember that the authorities have seized the book entitled "Why To Say No in the Presidential Referendum." This indicates first that it is not permissible for one to say no and second that what was allowed for publication until a few weeks ago is no longer allowed. The book is only a compilation of articles Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad had already published and articles I had already written in AL-SHA'B. This means we are experiencing a setback, one that strikes at pens and completely abolishes freedom of expression.

This brings us to further elaboration on the ongoing investigations. They accused us of inciting people against the ruling party and said that we were seeking to make the citizens lose confidence in the government symbols with a view to removing them from power. They charged that we describe the current constitution as despotic and that we aim to harm friendly countries and so on.

When we responded to all this by demanding specific proof from them, they showed us passages from our published articles, and we proved that every word we wrote was based on sound information and data.

If we are drawing from these facts conclusions that contradict the government's view, then some question emerge: Do we have the right to differ or not? Do we have the right to conclude that government officials are unfit or not? Do we have the right to attempt to change them by legal means or is this impermissible? If it is said that we have the right to do this in a state based on multiparty system, then why do you interrogate us? When you regard opposition to the government and proposing to remove it as a crime, are you rejecting our constitutional and legal system or are we being accused?

We noticed during the investigation that every charge against us was preceded by the sentence: As you support terrorism and propagate terrorists' ideas, you are accusing the rulers of corruption. Or with the sentence: As terrorists, you are attacking the current constitution etc.

Needless to say, we rejected this phrase, let alone their charge that we support terrorism. In every line, we reject the use of violence and demand reform by legal and legitimate means through free elections. Disregarding all this, what does their insistence on repeating these words mean? Here we come to the issue of terrorism included in President Mubarak's speech, the discussion of which we had postponed.

In the past, any advocate of applying shari'ah was necessarily regarded as an extremist and supporter of terrorism. We always opposed this and said it was sinful slander. But the situation has changed now—as was apparent in the investigation of us—and terrorism in their view is no longer synonymous with an Islamic solution. However, the "scope of terrorism" has expanded and every opponent to the government and everyone who reveals its corruption and impotence has become a supporter of terrorism and propagator of the terrorists' ideas.

The dialogue that they now call for will take place in light of this new, awkward concept although this dangerous concept is described as the real terrorism against anyone with a free opinion which the government officials are not pleased with.

Certainly the national and democratic forces will not fall into this trap and will not agree to muzzling all mouths en masse on the pretext that opposition has turned into terrorism.

What might heighten concerns in this regard is what Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi [minister of defense and war production] said in AL-AHRAM. He indicated that confrontation with terrorism might develop "to a new point where a decision, which we hope will not be necessary, will be required calling for intervention by the armed forces." For our part, we hope—like the field marshal—that such a decision will not be made, especially if the concept of terrorism is so lose that it can mean anything.

At the beginning of President Mubarak's third term, we face a serious threat to the democratic gains, which should be supported instead. We are about to experience a "new September" [the month of Anwar al-Sadat's clampdown on his opponents in 1981], which should be directed in a convincing way.

As September 1981 was a reaction to public disaffection and the spread of opposition, the "current September" also comes in response to a climate of the same kind despite the referendum's outcome. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Weapons Deals Criticized

NC1410210193

[Editorial Report] Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic on 5 October carries an approximately 2,000-word article by Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad entitled "The After-Effects of the Referendum Will Continue Just as Happens After an Earthquake." The writer begins by strongly criticizing the costly and "bombastic propaganda campaign" launched by the television and some of the government press. The writer then takes issue with Samir Rajab, chief editor of MAYU and chairman of the board of directors of AL-JUMHURIYAH, over an agreement he reportedly reached with the governor of al-Gharbiyah giving AL-JUMHURIYAH exclusive advertising rights in all cities of that governorate for 10 years, saying in a subhead: "Samir Rajab immediately receives the first payment for the hypocrisy advertisements from the governor of al-Gharbiyah." Murad goes on to accuse both Rajab and the governor of currying favor with President Mubarak. Dr. Murad also criticizes the Interior Ministry for introducing "illegal" innovations into the referendum to "mobilize supporters and not to ensure the referendum's honesty."

In the final paragraph, Murad calls on President Mubarak to submit an account on the weapons deals he concluded. It reads: "At the end of his second term in office and the

start of his third, we demand that President Husni Mubarak submit to the People's Assembly a statement on the weapons deals he concluded, both buying and selling, under the authorization granted to him by the People's Assembly so that they can be examined by the Central Auditing Agency to clear his financial status, in accordance with the customary constitutional and financial practices applicable in this regard."

Labor Party Denounces Government 'Onslaught'

NC1910104493 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Oct 93 pp 1, 9

[Excerpt] The Labor Party has affirmed that the recent measures taken against its leaders are in sharp and flagrant contrast with the principles of the Constitution, pluralism, the simplest principles of democracy, freedom of expression, and positive involvement in the homeland's affairs.

In a statement released the day before yesterday and distributed to news agencies at a news conference, the party said it regrets that the interrogation involving party figures has taken a significant turn. At the beginning of the interrogation, the people involved were accused of insulting the president of the Republic for demanding a statement of account on the arms deals he was authorized to conclude by the People's Assembly to clear his financial status and dispel suspicions created by foreign news agencies. Other charges of harming relations with the United States and disturbing social peace were added to the list of accusations, all of which are publishable issues subject to debate and discussion.

The statement added: Realizing the superficial nature of these accusations, the authorities are trying to steer the interrogation on a different course, claiming that the charges fall within the framework of instigation to overthrow the regime and propagating terrorism, thus qualifying them for the recent amendments in the penal code, better known as the antiterrorism law. The party statement noted that the recent measures taken against the party leaders and AL-SHA'B journalists constitute a clear setback for the democratic course, freedom of opinion and expression, and human rights in Egypt. These measures indicate no intention to implement the minimum promises made by the president in terms of commitment to democracy and care of the people's rights. The party appealed to all popular forces, political parties, trade unions, and civil organizations to stand firm together to resist the authoritative trend and signs of totalitarianism, as demonstrated by the arrest of honest and sincere national figures. The government's resorting to dictatorial measures, as evidenced by the onslaught on the Labor Party, needs to be fully rejected in word and deed by all concerned quarters to preserve the nation's present and guarantee its future. [passage omitted]

Opposition Party on Anti-Labor Party Measures

NC2010100693 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 13 Oct 93 p 7

["Text" of statement issued by the "official spokesman" of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party General Secretariat on 9 October]

[Text] As soon as the referendum on the presidential elections was over and President Mubarak was elected for a third term, the public was surprised by successive measures threatening to reduce the limited democracy existing in Egypt and threatening freedom of expression and political action. According to a memorandum from the State Security Intelligence Service, Labor Party deputy leader Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad, Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn, AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn, and journalists Salah Budaywi and Muhammad al-Qammash were summoned at midnight on Thursday for interrogation before the Higher State Security Prosecution. Some of them were detained for interrogation before the prosecution in the morning. Those who appeared for interrogation before the State Security Prosecution over articles published in AL-SHA'B were detained at a police post to complete the interrogation. They were later released on a huge bail. 'Adil Husayn and Majdi Ahmad Husayn will appear before the State Security Prosecution in the same case on Saturday.

The National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party [NPUG] is deeply concerned about these practices and wants to tell the public, the political parties, the Journalists Association, and the regime:

1. The timing of this measure directly after the referendum is a bad sign because it increases the apprehension of numerous forces, which fear that the regime may go back on the limited democratic rights instead of moving toward genuine democracy, particularly because the articles over which the writers were interrogated basically relate to the referendum and the regime's policies.

2. Confronting an opinion, even if it is vehement and violent, should be done by issuing a counteropinion and not by invoking laws and misusing them.

3. The State Security Prosecution interrogator's summoning political leaders and members of the Journalists Association in this way and issuing a provisional detention decision—even though the law does not extend to journalists being provisionally detained over published articles—are extremely serious practices that threaten to close the door on freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

4. Confronting the numerous dangers surrounding the homeland, particularly the danger of terrorism and corruption, requires a greater measure of democracy and freedom of expression, without fear of the regime's force or of outmoded legal clauses that do not respect freedom of expression. These dangers also require the press and journalists to eschew leveling accusations without evidence or publishing articles that defend or encourage

terrorists. The press code of honor registers this obligation unequivocally and definitively.

In light of these observations, the NPUG calls for closing this file out of concern for democracy, freedom of expression, and national action. It calls for the immediate release of all those interrogated over this issue, because it is an issue of freedom of expression. It reasserts the importance of responding to the decisions of the Second Journalists Congress, which called for canceling and amending the penal code articles and other laws that violate public freedoms and freedom of the press. It calls for creating the post of interrogation magistrate to consider cases involving freedom of expression and state security to ensure the necessary guarantees for the press and people in the public eye.

Regime Said Unable To Intimidate Opposition

NC2110093493 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 Oct 93 p 6

[Commentary by Ibrahim Disuqi Abazah: "The Wolf's Rolling Head"]

[Text] We will continue to write under any and all circumstances. We hope that the government will not accuse us of inciting public opinion, disrupting public order, or threatening the peace with the United States, China, and Japan!

I pray to God to deliver us from the dawn visitors [reference to early-morning arrests under Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir's regime] and spare us the fate of being held in protective custody!

By the way, I urge every free writer to avoid spending Friday nights at home if he wants to avoid being taken away and left waiting for hours to be interrogated. He should also take the precaution of raising 5,000 pounds bail money, that is, if he is temporarily released after interrogation.

Do not grieve if the government breaks its promises and uses its ill-reputed laws against the opposition. These arbitrary laws contradict human rights and even clash with other oppressive laws known to man because they can be enforced when no crime has taken place, even though there should be no punishment when there is no crime. When actions that displease the ruler are deemed to be crimes, this means that liberties are being openly confiscated. What do these charges mean: causing confusion, casting aspersions, threatening social peace, inciting the public, and so on? Can such actions be deemed criminal and their perpetrators punished? They are indeterminate descriptions of acts that cannot be called crimes. Can you tell when a writer is causing confusion and casting aspersions and when he is not? Can you tell when he is inciting the public and when he is not?

The deciding factor is if the writer is citing false information on purpose and with ill intent. He is then legally accountable. If a writer merely questions information, inquires about an event, or criticizes a governmental action, you cannot consider him guilty of confusing the public, casting aspersions, or inciting the people. Any other explanation means abolishing freedom of expression, nipping the opposition in the bud, and slaughtering democracy. This was exactly al-Sadat's intention when he issued these laws. This is also Mubarak's intention. How else can one explain the fact that Mubarak has maintained these laws for 12 years, even though the people are clamoring for their abolition? What is the meaning of their use today against the opposition, indeed against one of its major symbols, the venerable [Labor Party deputy leader] Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad?

This reckless, arbitrary action can only mean that the regime is determined to intimidate the opposition and tighten its hold on opinion makers. The choice of this particular person—Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad—at this particular time following the presidential referendum shows clearly that the third presidential term has begun very badly. What the president avoided doing during his first and second terms he is doing now: openly suppressing the opposition. Doubtlessly the political and popular reaction to this arbitrariness does not serve the regime or the democracy it professes. The regime is trying to strike while the iron is hot, at a time when the country is indeed aflame with crises. Relations between the people and the government are tense. This intentional harassment of opposition leaders will not frighten the people or make them back down, but it will certainly light a huge fire that the government will not be able to put out. The opposition had to tolerate numerous legalistic and other restrictions last year, which smothered political action and narrowed the political parties' freedom of movement and their ability to confront issues. These restrictions stifled the people's spirit, smothered political principles, and drove the public to a state of extreme passivity, the natural result of which was that they refused to participate in the political process and boycotted the ballot.

It is no coincidence that arbitrary measures to weaken the opposition and impair its capacities preceded the president's declaration of his desire to run for a third term. A year ago, the law of professional associations was amended to give the government increased control over these associations. A few months before that, the parties law was amended to deny the opposition parties the right to contact foreign parties and organizations without permission from the government-controlled parties committee. The government also made repeated threats to intimidate the opposition and curb its freedom of movement and expression. It did so on the pretext of protecting democracy from excesses and deviation.

As these preparatory measures were taking place, some people saw them as unmistakable evidence that the ruling regime was sharpening its fangs for a final assault on the opposition before beginning the quest for a third presidential term. They were right. What was a mere guess before is now an undeniable fact.

What does the president want? Does he want a cosmetic opposition or no opposition at all? If he wants a cosmetic opposition that extols the silver lining and ignores the sad facts, he is looking in the wrong place. We cannot provide him with this service.

If the president does not want any opposition, let him say so plainly and without mincing words. To brook opposition and accept criticism is to pay democracy its fair due. Those who cannot pay democracy its due have no right to complain or play the victim. They should admit what they are doing and call a spade a spade. Is it a transgression against democracy, as well as human rights, to intimidate writers and intellectuals just because they ask a question or draw a conclusion, even a shy one? A pen that strays a little is punishable by the penal law. However, the abnormal laws passed by President al-Sadat to repress opponents are illegitimate. In 1978, the Wafd Party actually froze its activities to protest these laws.

Where are the pro-government writers, who are in no short supply? Why don't they answer the opposition?

These writers, a motley crew of hypocrites, slanderers, and opportunistic hacks, have been granted immunity by the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, pampered, and encouraged to slander the opposition, which they do. They heap blame and vitriol at the opposition's doorstep with each new day.

Are not these writers enough to keep the opposition at bay and neutralize its criticism?

The wolf's rolling head will not intimidate us. [reference to an Eastern fable in which a wolf who tries to divide a prey's carcass fairly between himself, a lion, and a fox is killed by the lion. The fox then offers the lion the whole carcass, saying that he learned his lesson from the wolf's rolling head] If anything, it makes us more determined to defend our rights to the hilt. This is our duty as an honorable opposition that fears no one but God.

Brotherhood Could Win 20 Percent in Parliament

LD2010141793 Tehran IRNA in English 1304 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Athens, Oct. 20, IRNA—If elections were held in Egypt today the Muslim Brotherhood (Ikhwan al-Muslimoun) could easily win some 20 percent of the seats in parliament, reports the MIDDLE EAST TIMES quoting academic and political analysts in Cairo. The Brotherhood is already highly influential in many professional unions and charitable organizations dominating many of the 14,000 non-governmental bodies, generally private philanthrophic groups that serve as a basis for civil society in Egypt.

Amani Kandil, a consultant for the Persian Gulf program for United Nations development, told the Athens-based weekly paper that the Ikhwan "is more efficient and organized, than secular groups."

"The man on the street doesn't care about politics," she explained. "He cares about prices. Political parties and civil society are a story invented by the elite." She said the Wafd's and Labour Party's harping about political freedom means little to most Egyptians—they want concrete assistance which the Brotherhood provides through its charity organizations.

Parliamentary elections in Egypt are due in 1994, but the date is yet to be set by the head of the regime.

The Brotherhood is so sure of itself that it would field its own candidates independent of other political groups, Ikhwan spokesman Mam'un al-Hudaybi said. In the past Ikhwan has run on Labour [Party] and Wafd tickets as a way to circumvent the government's restriction on its political participation. But due to changes in parliamentary election laws, the Brotherhood can stand alone as independents, al-Hudaybi said. [passage omitted]

Detained Vanguards Leader on al-Jihad Aims, Activities

PM2010111093 London AL HAYAH in Arabic 16 Oct 93 p5

[Interview with Majdi Salim, "leader of the Islamic Conquest Vanguards" standing trial in Egypt, "in the dock," by Muhammad Salah-al-Din in Cairo]

[Text] [Salah-al-Din] How were you arrested and what was your role in the Islamic Conquest Vanguards organization?

[Salim] I prefer not to talk about my part in the Islamic movement. All I can say is that I was born in 1955. I have a commerce degree from Cairo University. I participated in al-Jihad activities. I left Egypt in the mid-eighties for one of the Gulf states, where I worked as a sales representative for one of the companies. From there I went to Afghanistan and took part in the fighting alongside the mojahedin against the communist occupation. I returned to Egypt in 1989. I was detained for some time and then released for lack of evidence against me. Then the confrontations began between the religious groups and the security authorities about two years ago. I learned that I was wanted by the police so I went into hiding until I was arrested last January while hiding in the apartment of brother Muhammad 'Ali Thabit, a member of al-Jihad, in the Kafr Tuhurmis in the pyramids area. It was later announced that about 800 members of the al-Jihad group who formed the Islamic Conquest Vanguards organization were arrested in a number of governorates.

[Salah-al-Din] Why did you call yourselves Conquest Vanguards?

[Salim] We did not call ourselves anything. The security organs gave that name after seizing a leaflet issued by the Islamic Conquest Vanguards. We are part of the al-Jihad group led by Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, who is abroad now,

and brother 'Abbud al-Zumur, leader of the old al-Jihad group, which assassinated (former President Anwar) al-Sadat.

[Salah al-Din] Bearing in mind the large number of religious groups, what is the difference between the old al-Jihad group and the current al-Jihad group?

[Salim] There are some historical misconceptions about the Islamic movement in general and the al-Jihad movement in particular, some deliberate and some out of ignorance. Al-Jihad movement appeared in the late fifties and the most prominent founders at that time and in the following years were Isma'il Tantawi, 'Alawi Mustafa, and others. That was the same movement which carried out the "Technical Military" [Academy] operation in 1974 and was responsible for the incidents of 1977, 1979, and 1981, in which al-Sadat was killed.

[Salah-al-Din] But some people believe that the al-Jihad group only appeared in the mid-eighties and that the Islamic Group [al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah] was responsible for al-Sadat's assassination.

[Salim] The Islamic Group did not emerge as an armed Islamic movement. Anyone who claims otherwise is mistaken. History and the facts confirm that the Islamic Group appeared as a movement of Muslim youth with no particular ideology in Asyut University in the mid-seventies, in the 1974-1975 school year to be specific, and it remained so until a conflict emerged between the approaches of some of its leaders and the Muslim Brotherhood in 1979. So it distanced itself from the Muslim Brotherhood. Then, in 1980, Karam Zuhdi met 'Abd-al-Salam Faraj, may God have mercy on his soul, who invited him to join the al-Jihad group and its ideology. So he and his group joined al-Jihad and its ideology. In the early eighties, the leaders of the main group of the al-Jihad movement were brothers Muhammad 'Abd-al-Salam Faraj, 'Abbud al-Zumur, and Nabil al-Mughrabi. Sometimes they jointly or individually met with brothers in Upper Egypt and discussed the position and activities of the al-Jihad group in Upper Egypt. The brothers in Upper Egypt were the nine who formed the Shura Council for Upper Egypt which then meant the area from al-Minya Governorate to Aswan.

[Salah-al-Din] Did Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of the al-Jihad group, who is now abroad, play a part in the October 1981 incidents?

[Salim] Brother al-Zawahiri has remained active in al-Jihad's ranks as a member and then leader from 1966 to this day.

[Salah-al-Din] But the Islamic Group emphasizes that the merger that took place between it and al-Jihad in 1980 resulted in the formation of a shura council under the chairmanship of Karam Zuhdi and the membership of 'Abbud al-Zumur, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Salam Faraj, 'Isam Darbalah, and others.

[Salim] What I said is what happened.

[Salah-al-Din] So there are deep differences between al-Jihad and the Islamic Group.

[Salim] Yes, and we do not deny these differences.

[Salah-al-Din] What, specifically, are these differences?

[Salim] Some are theoretical and some are practical. The following are some of the main theoretical differences:

1. There are organizational differences regarding organizational and security rules and measures, the secret and public aspect of the movement, and the organizational structure. The Islamic Group leans toward openness and excessive spontaneity, whereas al-Jihad adheres more strictly to secret organization. As a result of that there are now over 5,000 Islamic Group detainees in Egyptian prisons and only 2,000 al-Jihad members, half of whom are there in connection with the Conquest Vanguards case.

2. There is ideological disagreement. Al-Jihad believes that there should be a ready alternative for the present situation and that it should be submitted to specialists to give their views. The Islamic Group does not care about that. Al-Jihad upholds the idea of depending on specialized leaderships to run and guide the group, whereas the Islamic Group prefers to rely on people with just some general education.

3. There is some disagreement regarding Shari'ah law interpretation including the issue of the general jurisdiction of the blind. That is related to the authority of Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman. Our position on that has not changed. We still reject his authority. There is the problem of validation and invalidation, and other problems.

One of the most important differences is connected with the training of individuals before using them for jihad. The Islamic Group does not see that as important, but al-Jihad sees it as imperative. It is no secret that extensive discussions on these differences were held between brothers 'Abbud al-Zumur and Ayman al-Zawahiri on one hand and Dr. 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, Naji Ibrahim, and 'Isam Darbalah on the other in 1984.

[Salah-al-Din] What about the practical differences?

[Salim] They have to do with the maltreatment of ideological violators. The Islamic Group's treatment of violators is severe, arrogant, and very often violent, unlike al-Jihad. Another practical point of difference is that, unlike al-Jihad, the Islamic Group's preparations or military or security actions are ineffective.

[Salah-al-Din] The al-Jihad group was absent for a long time, then it came back and made the attempt on the life of Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi. Could the assassination of a minister or official be the way to the establishment of an Islamic state?

[Salim] Of course not. We never said that, but these operations fall in the context of the group's policy of revenge and support. It is one of the ideological grounds for any plan drawn up by the al-Jihad Islamic movement

in Egypt in pursuit of its higher objectives, and it is used as a response to the operations mounted against al-Jihad members or leaders in prison or outside.

[Salah-al-Din] But most of the operations over the past two years were carried out by the Islamic Group. Where was al-Jihad?

[Salim] Al-Jihad's methods of operation are different from the Islamic Group's methods. I wish to mention here a plan that was not carried out because of special circumstances. The plan was to attack the police forces in Imbabah quarter in Cairo with grenades. That would have inflicted 1,000 casualties on the police forces.

[Salah-al-Din] Have the violent operations claiming the lives of innocent people not undermined the popularity of the religious groups and the public's acceptance of these groups?

[Salim] I do not have sufficient definite information about the public reaction. That requires institutions to gauge public opinion, but there are no such institutions.

[Salah-al-Din] What is the number of al-Jihad members and what arms do they possess? Have the arrests and military trials affected the group's activities and ability to carry out new operations?

[Salim] The government knows better than anyone that the al-Jihad group's military preparations were revived in 1985 after its leaders were subjected to execution and imprisonment after al-Sadat's assassination. Al-Jihad's combat units are known to be well trained and their members had fighting experience in Afghanistan for months and years. The arrest campaign and the military trials have without doubt adversely affected the group's activities, but that effect has been limited. In the case of the Conquest Vanguards, charges were brought against 800 people, some of them absconding and some friends or sympathizers with al-Jihad. That is because of the group's strict secrecy. As regards the number of al-Jihad members, that is not for publication.

[Salah-al-Din] Where do you get your arms and what are your sources of funds? You have been accused of receiving funds and aid from some states, especially Iran.

[Salim] That is just talk and accusations lacking any evidence. Let them produce evidence if they can. We stress that these claims are false. Our financing is done internally.

[Salah-al-Din] There has been some controversy regarding the question of reconciliation and dialogue between the government and religious groups. The Islamic Group has rejected reconciliation. What is al-Jihad's position?

[Salim] We are not advocates of death nor repression. We will deal with whoever agrees with us. Anyone who is opposed to our objectives but places no obstacles in our way will be left alone, but anyone who insists on preventing us from delivering our God's message will be removed from our way by all means at our disposal.

[Salah-al-Din] What is your comment on the position of the government and the security organs insisting on all-out confrontation with religious groups and those who commit acts of violence?

[Salim] To every action there is an equally strong reaction. Violence only breeds worse violence.

Unidentified Gunmen Kill 2, Wound 1 in Dayrut

NC2010175393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1502 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Asyut, 20 Oct (MENA)—A security source has said that two unidentified men entered al-Sihhah Pharmacy in Dayrut City at noon today and one of them fired three shots, one of which hit the pharmacy owner, Edward Hadhiqan Maqar.

Dr. Nash'at Fawzi al-Zaqam of Dayrut Hospital and Michael Fadl Riyad, a representative of Sayyid Pharmaceutical Company, who happened to be inside the pharmacy at the time, were also wounded.

The source added that Riyad died of his wounds and the assailants fled, taking advantage of the heavy traffic jam in the area.

Interior Ministry, Public Security, State Security Detective, Asyut Security Directorate, and the Criminal Laboratory officials went to the scene to investigate the incident. Efforts are under way to arrest the culprits, and the prosecution has been told to investigate.

[Paris AFP in English at 1402 GMT on 20 October carries a related report which identifies the dead pharmacy owner as a "Coptic Christian."]

Mubarak Returns From Visit to Saudi Arabia

NC2010175093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1646 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and his delegation returned to Cairo this evening after a brief visit to Saudi Arabia during which he held talks with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, about current Arab and Islamic issues, notably the Middle East situation.

The custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz; Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince and first deputy prime minister, and other senior Saudi officials saw President Mubarak off at Jeddah Airport.

Foreign Minister Musa Leaves for Amman

NC2110090393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo for Amman this morning on a short visit to Jordan lasting several hours, during which he will deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to King Husayn of Jordan.

Musa will hold talks with 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Jordanian prime minister and foreign minister, on the latest developments in the peace process and bilateral relations.

Foreign Minister Discusses Peace Talks, Sudan

JN2010213493 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 18-24 Oct 93 pp 22-24

[By Ghassan Sharbal in Cairo]

[Excerpts] AL-WASAT conducted an interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa after a referendum was held on President Mubarak's third term in office. In the interview, he discussed the challenges that are going to face Egypt during the new presidential term that will last until the end of the nineties. He said: "Egypt is entering a new phase under President Mubarak, who is carefully following up current files in light of the role Egypt has been playing. The reconstruction of Egypt's economy is a main issue, and I believe it is at the top of President Mubarak's agenda. There is also a need to restore stability in the Middle East. Both issues are very important to him, and I believe they will be the center of action in the years to come." [passage omitted]

Asked about the position Egypt will adopt if an Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian triangle and a Syrian-Lebanese confederation are established, Minister Musa said: "Meanings of words in our Arabic language are sometimes magnified, and I would like to reduce them to their practical bases. You ask what we will do if we are surprised by such a situation. The issue of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation has actually been proposed, and there may be tripartite Palestinian-Israeli-Jordanian cooperation. These issues cannot be considered surprises. They were discussed, and Syrian-Lebanese relations are of a special nature. They may take one form or another, but they will continue to exist without encroaching on Lebanon's independence as a sovereign state. This is something we take for granted. What is new then? We experienced such things, and we can coexist with them in the future. Egypt's role is not governed by the nature of relations between two Arab countries or by the nature of the Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian relationship."

Asked about fears that Arab countries may go to the next stage without a minimum of coordination and about Egypt's efforts to raise the level of coordination, Musa pointed out that Arab understanding exists and that the recent meeting of the Arab foreign ministers "was very important, and there was no objection to the agreement but there were observations and fears. The statement considered the Palestinian-Israeli agreement a first step. Expected challenges should increase understanding. However, I do not want to define the form and level of such a coordination. The whole process is governed by general principles, the foremost of which is the principle of land for peace. The framework is clear."

[Sharbal] Can an Arab summit be held despite the residue of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait? Is a change in the Iraqi regime a prerequisite for accepting it back?

[Musa] The bitterness is still there. Removing it requires a change in the Iraqi attitude toward Kuwait. Whatever the Iraqi allegations are, there is Arab and international opposition to it. Will the Iraqi side continue its allegations in the face of the opposition of all others? We should start from a certain point. But as for the change of the Iraqi leadership, this is not our business. It is nobody's business. It concerns the Iraqi people. What I am concerned about is the way Iraq views Kuwait. This view is absolutely rejected on Arab and international levels.

[Sharbal] Is Iran the main power opposed to peace?

[Musa] Iran is a neighbor to the Arab region. It can be considered a part of the Middle East in its broad sense. It has the right to oppose or to support anything. A Latin American country has the right to say yes or no to the agreement or the peace process as a whole. But if such a country takes practical steps against the peace efforts, then this is another story. I do not believe that Iran has taken any practical steps of this kind so far.

[Sharbal] Can the signs of improvement in Egyptian-Sudanese relations be interpreted against the backdrop of Khartoum's need for Cairo in the wake of the charges of terrorism and the U.S. measures?

[Musa] This question should be posed to Sudan. We view Sudan as a state with an historical relationship with Egypt. This relationship must not be strained for too long. There are broad prospects for Egyptian-Sudanese cooperation and rapprochement, the signs of which appeared after the recent meeting between President Mubarak and Lieutenant General al-Bashir. We are trying to put this relationship on the right track.

[Sharbal] Many parties, including Egypt, have charged Sudan with supporting radical groups. Are there any changes in this regard?

[Musa] This is an international charge. We hope that Sudan will be able to prove otherwise and convince the international community of that. The charge is still there.

[Sharbal] How do you interpret the decline of the Egyptian campaign against the Iranian and Sudanese support for Egyptian radicals? Is there a change in the two countries' policies?

[Musa] The momentum gained by Egyptian-Sudanese relations has a role in that. The historical relations must not be affected by developments. The relations are now based on respect for legitimacy and good-neighborliness.

We cannot accept that the world moves in one direction while the Arab world moves in the other, or that Sudan or Iran might move in an opposite direction. Such an opposite direction harms both states and the region. This is our point of view. [passage omitted]

Somali Experience Shows 'Falsehood' of U.S. Power

NC1910134493 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Oct 93 p 8

[Article by Mustafa Bakri: "A Lesson From Somalia"]

[Excerpt] U.S. President Bill Clinton is acting like a terrified mouse in Somalia. Confused and unable to think because of the strikes by the Arab Muslim revolutionaries, he fumbled and decided to send more troops to Somalia, while declaring that he intends to pull these troops out for good by March 1994.

The onslaughts carried out by the Somali youths, women, children, and elderly against the U.S. troops have surprised everybody. Targeting the troops of the mightiest country in the whole world, they killed 12 soldiers and wounded nine others in one battle and captured a pilot after they shot down two helicopters. The surprise comes from the fact that these people have no weapons to speak of and are not well versed in the techniques of war. They cannot even find enough food to fill their stomachs, while the U.S. troops have all the resources, experience, and food. But because the Somali people are fighting for a homeland and an ideology, while the U.S. troops are defending evil and tyranny, God secured victory for the believers and defeat for His infidel enemies. U.S. television networks have shown pictures of Somali children dragging the bound corpse of an American through the streets of Mogadishu. The U.S. public was furious with its President and demanded the resignation of the secretary of defense, who was responsible for spilling U.S. blood and dragging down the U.S. image. Faced with increasing pressure, President Clinton was forced to make the decision to pull out his troops from Somalia. His secretary of defense was forced to announce that his country supports the establishment of a transitional national council in Somalia in which General Aidid or his representatives would be included.

Thus, the Somali people have forced the "invincible" power, the master of the world, and the country in charge of disciplining the small and large to give up, retreat, and recognize all the revolutionaries' conditions. The events in Somalia have proved the falsehood of the U.S. myth, the invincible troops and their technology that can destroy anything. The U.S. troops suffered a state of panic and horror. They fled the battlefield in humiliation and shame, without concern for their new world order, which collapsed at the hands of the Somali children. The crushing and overwhelming victory achieved by the Somali people proves to those who have given up struggle in favor of despair and frustration that rights cannot be lost as long as there are claimants, that the will of the people is stronger than any lethal weapon, and that victory is always assured for the steadfast, regardless of the sacrifices. [passage omitted]

Fulfillment of Arab, Israeli Dreams Foreseen

NC2110095793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "A Negotiated Middle East Peace Is the Only Way Open to the Conflicting Parties"]

[Excerpts] Observers cannot fail to notice the Egyptian leadership's intensive diplomatic efforts to contain regional conflicts in the Middle East and Africa and, indeed, in the heart of Europe. A portion of Egyptian diplomacy is devoted to the quest for a just solution to the plight of the Yugoslav people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. [passage omitted]

New world developments and the transformations they imply cannot be stopped. It is no exaggeration to say that these unexpected transformations are at the forefront of the reasons that the Middle East peace efforts made such great strides. The current Israeli leadership is soundly interpreting history. Consequently, its handling of the peace process and its agreeing to sign a declaration of principles with the PLO shows a fine understanding of the future of Arab-Israeli relations and of the international changes that are summarily sweeping away formerly cherished axioms.

Doubtlessly the Israeli citizen sensed, after the Gaza-Jericho agreement was initialed, that the Arab countries advocate and sincerely seek to attain and maintain a just peace. The sober voices within the Meretz party who are urging that peace efforts and agreements be boosted and implemented demonstrate that negotiations are the only way that will be accepted by the Arab and Israeli publics.

Hence, those who observe Egyptian moves will realize that Egypt, in line with its clear and uninfluenced commitment, wishes to establish a just and lasting regional peace that will enable the Arab countries to regain their occupied territories according to UN Security Council resolutions and provide the Israeli people with a secure and stable peace under which Israel will be treated as one of the region's countries, with recognized borders and a normal relationship with its Arab neighbors.

Certainly Egyptian efforts and contacts are entirely devoted to the attainment of the Arab nations' dream of a just peace and the Israeli people's aspirations for stability. Stability has long been absent from the region as a result of the former Israeli Governments' unsound interpretation of history.

Navy Head on Modernization, Joint Exercises

NC2010134593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 20 Oct (MENA)—Navy Commander Vice Admiral Ahmad 'Ali Fadil said that a deal

has been concluded to buy Knox mine hunters and the most modern U.S. frigates. He said that a number of them will be delivered next year.

Speaking at a news conference last night to mark Navy Day, Vice Admiral Fadil said the mine hunters and frigates will join our naval forces so that we can enter the 21st century with a navy capable of protecting our coasts and beaches and capable of defending peace, justice, and legitimacy in the region.

He added: Our Navy is now improving our Chinese submarines, which have limited capabilities, by equipping them with new missile-firing armament systems. The operational units are also being upgraded to maintain our units' capabilities through effective use and to maintain their combat readiness. He noted that this process is being carried out by Egyptian experts with the cooperation of the State Ministry for Military Production and the Arab Industrialization Authority.

The vice admiral stressed that the Navy is capable of carrying out its peacetime duties to protect and enforce the state's sovereignty and laws on all our territorial waters and along 2,000 km of coastal area. He added: This makes it incumbent on us to combat smuggling, terrorism, pollution, and the violation of fishing laws while carrying out various maritime salvage operations all along Egypt's coasts and in our territorial waters and to help in such tasks at the regional level.

The Navy commander said: We carried out a joint exercise with U.S. forces in the Red Sea in July. More joint exercises will be staged in November. These exercises will be called Bright Star and will involve joint maneuvers with our Armed Forces. He noted that the Navy has staged joint exercises with naval forces from the United States, France, Italy, and Britain. He said that several other countries, including Arab countries, have asked to hold joint exercises and coordination for doing so is under way. [passage omitted]

Vice Admiral Fadil explained how our Navy is anticipating the future and following developments in naval armament. He said: Our Navy has received ships that specialize in hydrographic surveys. Soon the Egyptian flag will be hoisted over these ships, which will complement the mine hunters in addition to their role in surveying the coast and barriers.

He added that two of these ships were built in our national shipyards and that their systems were obtained from the United States. We also got two other ships from the United States to learn how to build them. He said that a number of Coast Guard Swift and Timsah speedboats have been built in our shipyards. [passage omitted]

Libya

Opposition Claims Air Force Bombed Rebels

PM2010154093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Oct 93 pp1, 4

[Report by Bisharah Shirbil and Raghidah Dirgham: "Libyan Opposition Confirms Mutiny; Authorities Deny It"]

[Excerpt] London, New York, Tunis, Cairo—Libyan opposition sources have stated that a military mutiny has taken place in the Libyan town of Misratah in the central region of the country and that the Libyan Air Force bombed the rebels in an attempt to put down the mutiny, but an official Libyan source contacted from London has denied any such mutiny. He said that "these reports are a part of the campaign launched by certain circles against Libya." Travellers arriving in Tunis from Libya could not confirm these reports. Any military movement on the land route between Tripoli and the Tunisian border would be noticed.

The sources said that "about 2,000 infantry soldiers under the command of Colonel al-Saqr moved out with their mechanized units and took control of some intersections near the garrison."

They said that the mutiny began in the area of Bani Walid where the Warflah tribe is located and then extended to Misratah.

They pointed out that "the mutiny was a result of the deteriorating living conditions in Libya and Libya's difficulties, and followed the unrest which arose two weeks ago with the mounting news of an impending tightening of sanctions against Libya because of the Lockerbie crisis." They stressed that the "mutineers called for a change of regime and for the removal of some officials."

They said that, the day before yesterday, the Libyan Air Force bombed the garrison and the surrounding areas under the control of the mutineers and that the "special squadron" that carried out the bombing made several sorties for that purpose.

The opposition sources say that "the mutiny is not over yet despite the Air Force's intervention and the campaign of arrests involving 15 officers and scores of soldiers."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, Libyan official sources hve denied any such mutiny which they described as "a figment of the imagination."

According to French security sources, no military movements were observed in Libya over the past few days and everything appeared to be calm.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has returned to Cairo with a message from Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to President Mubarak in reply to the latter's message which he conveyed to the Libyan leadership. [passage omitted]

Lockerbie Lawyer Accuses UK, U.S. of Pressure

PM2010153693 Edinburgh THE SCOTSMAN in English 19 Oct 93 p 3

[Alan Hutchison report: "Libyan Lawyer Accuses US and Britain of Using Illegal Pressure"]

[Text] The leading Libyan lawyer who represents the two men accused of the Lockerbie bombing yesterday accused Britain and the United States of exerting barbaric and illegal pressure on his clients as part of an alleged cover-up in the case.

In a hard-hitting statement—released exclusively to THE SCOTSMAN—the men's lawyer, Dr Ibrahim Legwell, also branded the Foreign Office as arrogant and insulting in its refusal to agree to a meeting with him.

And, as the United Nations Security Council in New York continued to move towards a vote on new sanctions against Libya for failing to hand over the two bomb suspects, support for Libya's position came from a law lecturer at a Scottish university.

David Ott, lecturer in public law at Aberdeen University, claimed that Britain and the US had opted for a blatant exercise of political muscle. That, he said, had looked suspiciously like an attempt to humiliate Libya and undermine its government.

He questioned the legality of Britain, the US and France asking the Security Council to deal with a legal question of extradition and pointed out that such a question had never previously been considered by the council.

Dr Legwell, in his statement, said that a fuller investigation into the Lockerbie bombing—which claimed the lives of 270 people nearly five years ago—would not only cast doubts on the suspicions surrounding his clients but could lead to finding the truth and the existence of an intended cover-up in this case.

Stressing the lack of an extradition treaty between the countries, Dr Legwell declared: "The Foreign Office does not seem to recognise any rights to these two men and does not recognise that their rights may actually stop the hand of the Libyan government from surrendering them.

"We are pleading to all international human right organisations and all legal professionals around the world, indeed to any men or women of decency to stand with us in defending our clients against the most barbaric forms of pressure to make them give up the rights accorded to them by all international human rights principles.

"We indeed are pleading with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the honourable members of the Security Council not to continue with added measures intended to pressure our clients."

The Foreign Office made it clear last week that it saw no point in meeting the Libyan legal team even before THE SCOTSMAN revealed that the two accused men, 'Abd-al-Basit 'Ali Muhammad al-Migrahi and Amin Khalifah Fahimah, had finally decided against ever surrendering to Scotland or the US for a trial.

The two men's Scottish solicitor, Alistair Duff, disclosed that the men were prepared to stand trial in an Arab speaking or Mediterranean country only.

He said that their principal concern about a trial in either Scotland or the US was that it would not be possible with reasonable certainty to empanel a jury whose approach to the case would not be tainted by the prejudicial publicity which he said had accompanied the case.

A Foreign Office spokesman, reacting to Dr Legwell's statement, said: "He seems to overlook that it is the Security Council that decides which measures should be taken. It is not just Britain, the US and France: it is the Security Council."

Morocco

Parliamentary Committee Chairmen Appointed

LD2010161593 Rabat MAP in English 1321 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Rabat, Oct 20 (MAP)—The Moroccan House of Representatives (parliament) approved at a plenary session here Tuesday [19 October] the proposals made by the various parliamentary groups on the appointment of parliamentary committees' chairmen.

The parliament thus approved, on the basis of proportional representation, Tahar Masmoudi and Omar Jazouli from the Constitutional Union (UC) as respective chairmen of the Committee of Finance, Planning and Regional Development and of the Committee of Sea Affairs and Tourism.

Abdelkader Baina and Mrs Badia Skalli from the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP) were entrusted the chairmanship respectively of the Committee of Justice, Legislation and Human Rights and of the Committee of Social Affairs, Health, Youth and Sports.

The chairmanships of the Equipment, Communication and Posts Committee and of the Interior, Local Council and National Promotion Committee went respectively to Abdeslam Beroual and Mohamed Debach, both from the Popular Movement.

Mohammed Kabbab and Abderrazak Afilal from the Istiqlal Party respectively took the chairmanship of the Committee of National Education, Staff and Vocational Training and of the Committee of Information, Culture and Islamic Affairs.

Badreddine Snoussi from the National Rally of Independents (RNI) will chair the Committee of Foreign Affairs, Borders, Occupied Zones and Defense. Allal Boulouiz from the National Popular Movement (MNP) will chair the Committee of Housing, Territorial Planning and Protection of the Environment. Abdallah Kadiri from

the National Democrat Party (PND) will head the Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Committee while Mohamed Yakhlef from the Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS) is to chair the Committee of Economy, Employment and Immigrants' Affairs.

The plenary session chaired by the house Speaker Jallal Essaid afterwards examined and adopted a number of amendments to some articles of the internal regulations. The amendments that were unanimously approved brought up the number of the committees' vice-chairmen from one to three so that all parliamentary groups be represented and the maximum number of the committees' members from 50 to 54.

The house also approved, as proposed by the bureau, that Wednesdays be devoted to questions addressed to the cabinet members.

The committees chairmen are to start meetings as of this Wednesday to form the bureaux of the committees.

Spanish Official Reaffirms Military Cooperation

LD2010160093 Rabat MAP in English 1254 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Madrid, Oct 20 (MAP)—The Spanish Government renewed attachment to promoting cooperation with Morocco in all fields in view of the excellent relations binding the two countries.

In an answer to representative of the 'Izquierda Unida' (United Left/Opposition) who was asking for explanations on the military equipment deal with Morocco, representative of the Spanish Government stressed that there is a perfect compatibility between cooperation with Morocco, which encompasses all fields, and the issue of human rights and democracy defense.

Nothing suggests that there may be a whatever tie [as received] between what use Morocco will do with the purchased weapons and an eventual hampering to the projected referendum in the Sahara. The Spanish Government further explained that if the holding of the referendum is currently facing some difficulties, they are not due to military reasons but to technical ones such as the lists of those eligible to vote.

The arms deal with Morocco will have no incidence on the issue of Sebta and Melilia (two Moroccan northern towns still under Spanish rule), the Spanish official added.

He also recalled that international observers and various human rights organizations have noted 'considerable progress' in human rights in Morocco, as evidenced by the latest multi-party legislative elections and the score grabbed by the coalition of the former opposition.

Spanish Foreign Minister Comments on Talks, Leaves

LD1910142993 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana Perticrra today ended his two-day working visit to Morocco, during which he met His Majesty King Hassan II, may God protect him.

Before his departure, the Spanish foreign minister held a news conference in Rabat for local and foreign pressmen, during which he affirmed that his visit to Morocco was fruitful and useful for Morocco's relations with Spain and its relations with the EC. He also asserted that his country supports the process of economic partnership between Morocco and the EC, which will be beneficial to both sides.

Questioned about the security role which could played by Morocco and Spain in the Mediterranean, the Spanish foreign minister pointed out that he had discussed this matter with his Moroccan counterpart and that he hoped that this issue will be dealt with in depth at the upcoming CSCE summit meeting due to be held 1 December, to which Morocco will be invited.

Sudan

Foreign Minister on Date for Elections

AB2010155993 Dakar PANA in English 0905 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Khartoum 19 Oct (PANA)—Dr Husayn Abu-Salih, Sudan's interim foreign minister, said on Tuesday [19 October] that presidential elections would be held in the country late next year. Speaking in Khartoum, he said political developments in the country over the past couple of days were in line with the government's policy to hand over to an elected leader.

Last Saturday the ruling military council dissolved itself and appointed its head, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir as president of the country. A day later all ministers resigned to allow Lt. Gen. al-Bashir to form a new government. Al-Bashir asked them to stay on while he formed his new government.

Abu-Salih said the stage of revolutionary legitimacy which started on 30 June 1989 when al-Bashir seized power from civilian Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had now ended. Sudan, he said, had now entered the stage of constitutional legitimacy.

Official on Elections, Southern Crisis

NC2010185693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1523 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman, Sudanese minister of state and secretary general of Sudan's International People's Friendship Council, has

announced that a decision has been made to begin preparations for parliamentary elections in Sudan and for the election of a president and a vice president. He said that the Salvation Revolution decided at its inception in 1989 to hold such elections at the end of a transitional five-year period. The transitional period was to be devoted to confronting the deteriorating economic situation, establishing security, and solving the southern Sudan crisis. 'Uthman added that the recent dissolution of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] was meant to lead to elections.

At a news conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Cairo today, the Sudanese minister said that the choice of Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir as president of Sudan for the period immediately following the dissolution of the RCC is designed to avoid a political vacuum in the country pending the reorganization of the Sudanese Government.

'Uthman pointed out that the proposed Sudanese parliament will include individually elected candidates representing the various geographical regions and representatives of the various popular federations and organizations.

Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman declared that the Sudanese Government is continuing its efforts to find a peaceful solution to the southern Sudan crisis and has hopes that the initiative submitted by neighboring Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, and Uganda and the initiative submitted by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter will succeed in this endeavor. He ascribed the failure of earlier attempts to solve the crisis peacefully during the Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Abuja-1, and Abuja-2 meetings to disagreements among the Sudanese factions.

'Uthman said that famine in southern Sudan is limited to isolated areas and is a consequence of the rebel movements. He attributed the government's and UN's inability to provide those areas with food to the lack of transportation facilities. He said that tens of thousands, not millions as Western media claim, face famine.

The Sudanese official ruled out the prospect of a military campaign against southern Sudan, asserting that the Sudanese Government adheres to existing cease-fire agreements. He noted, however, that government forces will respond to any aggression by the southern rebels.

He added that Sudan acknowledges the existence of diverse cultures and religions on its territory, accepts the right of the southern Sudanese people not to be subject to shari'ah rulings, and the need to establish a federal system. He denied that the Sudanese authorities have closed down foreign schools in Khartoum, noting only that the government is committed to maintaining the Arabic language as the main medium of teaching in addition to English. He asserted that southern Sudan's citizens themselves have made this request in order to promote interaction between the country's various cultures.

Asked about relations between Egypt and Sudan, 'Uthman said that they have noticeably improved since President Husni Mubarak and President 'Umar al-Bashir met in Cairo in June. He reported that the joint committee cochaired by the two countries' foreign ministers will meet in Khartoum next month to discuss ways of boosting bilateral ties. He added that with the improvement of relations, the citizens of both nations are moving regularly between the two countries and the border is calm.

The Sudanese minister of state denied U.S. charges that Sudan encourages terrorism, saying that neither the United States nor any other party can back these accusations with evidence. He emphasized that Sudan is secure and stable, explaining that recent demonstrations in Khartoum were the result of fuel shortages. He said that the authorities did not try to interfere with these demonstrations.

General Claims Somalis Trained in Sudan

PM1910114493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Oct 93 p 6

[Zayn-al-'Abidin Ahmad report: "Leader of Sudanese 'Legitimate Command' Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Al-Bashir Government Trained Somalis in Use of Arms in Port Sudan"]

[Text] Cairo—Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, leader of the "Legitimate Command" of the Sudanese Armed Forces, has said that the Sudanese Government has trained 30 individuals from Somali militias at the air defense school in Port Sudan in the use of antiaircraft weapons. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Lt. Gen. Fathi accused the Sudanese Government of working to topple neighboring and distant regimes to achieve an impossible international dream, ignoring Sudanese citizens' economic and political problems. He said that this further opens the door to resistance in all its forms, calm and violent. Interfering in others' affairs and undermining the region's security broadens the chances for foreign intervention in all its forms.

On the government's relationship with the military establishment in Sudan and the Popular Defense's role, Lt. Gen. Fathi said that following Lt. Gen. al-Bashir's tours of the Armed Forces camps and what he heard there from the officers and soldiers about the use of the military establishment's name as a base and shield, and in view of the huge distance between the [National Islamic] Front party and the military establishment, he believed that the Popular Defense militias would not last more than a few hours when the time for confrontation comes.

On Brigadier Muhammad Ahmad al-Rih's torture, the leader of the opposition "Legitimate Command" said: "We have all the information about the torture incidents to which he has been subjected since his arrest in August 1991. We also have information that Brig. al-Rih was hidden from UN envoy Caspar Pero [name as transliterated], who sought to see him in his prison in Sawakin. And

we have ascertained that Brig. al-Rih, 'Abd-al-Rahman Naqdallah, and Col. Hashim-al-Khayr were subjected to severe torture, which nearly led to Brig. al-Rih's death outside the prison by the Front's security men. [sentence as published] We have also ascertained that the regime put mental and physical pressure on Dr. Ja'far Yasin, who was accused with others in the alleged bombings case in May 1993, to force him to turn 'state's evidence' to say what is dictated to him before a court which, it is said, will be public and fair. A certain defense lawyer was eager to carry out the defense task, promising him freedom if he does the job with someone else, so he agreed to the offer."

Lt. Gen. Fathi added that the authorities had denied Dr. Ja'far any visits and kept him in solitary confinement until the trial day. But the regime daily persists in denying the accusations and charges leveled against it by the international and local community, insisting that it cares about people and their rights.

Lt. Gen. Fathi urged all world organizations to play their role in helping Brig. al-Rih and Dr. Ja'far. On the "Legitimate Command's" absence from the [Democratic National] Grouping's meeting held in the last week of September in London, Lt. Gen. Fathi said: As we are eager to work effectively both outside and inside the country, discussions are conducted discreetly, and even more discreetly when it is to do with side issues or issues which have been discussed and settled. We of the Legitimate Command support the Grouping and its forces as long as people are committed to the charters in letter and spirit. The recent London meeting discussed matters relating to preparation for the next conference which had been discussed and agreed upon. Participants decided to reexamine them. They broached new issues. And as we were not among the participants, and we have our views of these issues, we asked the brothers in the higher coordination committee to refer the recommendations to a future session to discuss them because of their importance. Invitations to the London meeting were sent a short time before it was held. It was not the Legitimate Command only that did not attend it. Other forces could not attend the meeting. The reason was the limited time and other circumstances.

Lt. Gen. Fathi said: "We were not worried about our inability to attend, because we have confidence in the other forces and because it is possible to confer."

Asked about reports of an attempted coup by hard-line Islamist officers inside the military establishment and the arrest of 12 of them, Lt. Gen. Fathi said: "This is not the first time we have heard about a coup attempt by the regime's supporters, nor will it be the last. The campaign to distract and narcotize is continuing through numerous means. It is a well-contrived and known plan designed to slow down preparations for hitting the regime in the hope that the regime might collapse by itself."

He added: "We do not expect—at least at present—a conflict to erupt inside the al-Turabi group and lead to the regime's collapse. It is a group that is fully agreed to remain on the scene, using its most important weapon—deception, because of its small size and weak capabilities, regardless of the losses and destruction which could befall the country and its people."

We went on: "Despite this, one does not rule out that personal interests and clinging to power could result in a conflict over interests and power. Thus despite all this, we must not waste any time or efforts in following and analyzing such reports or waiting for any results from them. We should focus our strength and efforts on preparing for the decisive battle with the present regime."

Correction to Vice President Appointed

AB2010203493

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Vice President, Defense Minister Appointed," published in the 20 October Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 25:

Column two, third paragraph, third sentence, make read: ...appointing Gwang Tonj Niwab governor of Upper ... (clarifying name of governor)

GCC Secretary General on Defense, Security Issues

PM2010120693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Oct 93 p 5

[Interview with Shaykh Fahim Bin-Sultan al-Qasimi, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council, by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Dirgham] What are the most significant difficulties facing the [Gulf Cooperation] Council [GCC] at present?

[Al-Qasimi] Actually the difficulties are numerous, most importantly the difficulties in the economic spheres, namely failure to implement the clauses of the economic agreement in an ideal manner. The agreement was signed by the Supreme Council, but when the implementation stage began, there was some slowness. This slowness is attributable to the fact that some states have some economic policies which require amendment to bring them into line with the clauses of the economic agreement. This is in addition to some states' insistence on adapting the clauses of the agreement to their internal legislations. The most important issue in this agreement is a standardized customs tariff in the GCC states. If this is achieved—and we hope it will be achieved in at the upcoming summit scheduled to be held in Riyadh in December—fundamental difficulties will disappear.

[Dirgham] What difficulties are there with regard to security cooperation among the GCC states?

[Al-Qasimi] Security cooperation is facing no difficulties. But it is a difficult and complex issue which has gone through numerous stages. Several proposals and ideas have been raised and discussed. And there is now a common orientation to the effect that each GCC state should build its own defense force, but with a view to jointly developing the Peninsula Shield force in the future. After their meeting in Abu Dhabi, the chiefs of staff will submit their report on this issue to the defense ministers, who will meet next month. And we hope this issue will be agreed.

[Dirgham] How will you reconcile the bilateral defense agreements between a number of GCC states and the United States with the defense security umbrella you are seeking and the idea of every state building its own defense force?

[Al-Qasimi] The GCC states have agreed on a plan based on not relying on one model of security structure or security strategy and arrangements. We proceed first from the self-building of the GCC states. Second, from the Damascus declaration, with every state entitled—if it so wishes and in coordination with Egypt and Syria—to seek the help of forces from those two states without the objection of any of the other GCC states. Third, through the conclusion of agreements with friendly states, in particular the permanent member states of the Security Council. These agreements were concluded in accordance with the UN Charter, as they have an international dimension for security in the Gulf region, as this region is important and sensitive, not just with regard to the [Middle East] region, but the world as a whole, because of its strategic position. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Why are you arming yourself in the Gulf, when the world trend is toward arms reduction?

[Al-Qasimi] The Gulf region has over 12 years experienced two devastating wars which caused the region's states to feel that something must be done to bolster their security and stability. Arms purchases are one way of building security, in addition to the other arrangements about which we spoke earlier, in order to reinforce security building at the internal level among the GCC states and with the friendly states.

[Dirgham] And what is the source of threat to the GCC states? Is it Iraq, which has been tamed militarily, or Iran?

[Al-Qasimi] That is a very important question, but it is difficult to answer it. The Iraqi aggression against Kuwait proved that it is difficult to predict who the enemy is. We are states which God has granted a strategic position and wealth. So we are coveted by many people. Thus we should build security and prepare for any eventuality in the near or distant future.

[Dirgham] And do you believe that the source of threat is Iran, because—unlike Iraq—it is not subjected to international inspection of its military industries?

[Al-Qasimi] Iraq continues to threaten Kuwait. It has not recognized the border demarcation process, continues to hold Kuwaiti prisoners, some 625 of them, and is still making threats.

[Dirgham] But do you believe Iraq now has the military power to match its words with actions?

[Al-Qasimi] Without doubt Iraq's orientation is to bolster its military capabilities. The problem is that it is still making threats. The intention is there, and as long as the intention is there, it may plan to implement it in the future.

[Dirgham] And Iran?

[Al-Qasimi] There is between us and Iran the problem of the three islands [Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa] which United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister mentioned in his address to the (UN) General Assembly. We call on Iran to return these islands, because if they remain occupied by Iran, they will represent a factor of instability in the region. Thus we call on Iran to return these islands to the Emirates so that there will be no justification for instability in the Gulf region.

[Dirgham] Do the GCC states have a unified position on the policy of "dual containment" of Iran and Iraq? What do the Americans say about this policy?

[Al-Qasimi] The "dual containment" policy is still new. It is a new U.S. policy, as far as the Europeans are concerned. The Europeans have a different view, and Europe's relations with Iran are still good. It is an internal U.S. policy in which we do not interfere. What we are interested in is that this policy should not affect our conditions, and our states should not be affected by it. Whatever the United States does is part of its internal policy. So far we have not crystallized a position or a feeling on this policy. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] You referred to the Damascus declaration. What has been done in relation to its implementation in practice? How will it affect the GCC states in the future, individually or together?

[Al-Qasimi] The Damascus declaration still stands and will stay. Several meetings have been held among the foreign ministers of the eight states [GCC states, Egypt, and Syria]. The most recent meeting was held in Abu Dhabi. Important issues were discussed. It was agreed that the Damascus declaration has an important aspect, namely the political protocol, which includes principles not stipulated in the Arab League charter. These important principles include, for example, the states' right to their natural resources and noninterference in internal affairs. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Can relations be normalized with Iraq while Saddam is in power?

[Al-Qasimi] We are not targeting certain figures. There should be a rational orientation focused primarily on the interests of the Iraqi people themselves. If Iraq implements the Security Council resolutions and recognizes the State of Kuwait as a free, independent, and sovereign state, and if it stops its threats to the GCC states, and if... there are many things which it should do before normal relations can be restored between Iraq and the GCC states.

[Dirgham] What about Iran? To what extent does its dispute with the United Arab Emirates over the three islands represent an obstacle to the development of relations with it?

[Al-Qasimi] The GCC states' relations with Iran are historic and deep-rooted. We hope that these relations will continue for the sake of the two peoples' interests. We are interested in maintaining friendly relations. But we want to reach a means (dialogue) with Iran as long as the situation remains as it stands, namely Iran's occupation of the three islands. If we reach an impasse, and if we know that they are not serious in the dialogue, the only option is to follow up this issue through peaceful means, through the United Nations. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Will the GCC states coordinate among themselves to provide continued financial aid to make the "Gaza-Jericho First" agreement a success? And has the time come to end the Arab boycott of Israel, as the United States and other Western states say?

[Al-Qasimi] The GCC states have participated in the peace process from the outset. And they are participating in the multilateral negotiations. Some GCC states have provided aid and others are considering it.

We support the peace process, and our position proceeds from Resolutions 242 and 338, the land for peace principle, and Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories, including holy Jerusalem, in addition to the Palestinians' right to self-determination. If these principles are achieved, everything becomes possible. As for the boycott, it is premature [to discuss it now], because Israel is still occupying the Golan, southern Lebanon, and most of Palestinian territory. So why rush to lift the boycott? At any rate, the boycott could be eased while the withdrawal process is taking place.

Kuwait

Iranian Summit Invitation Expected 'Soon'

PM2110131693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Oct 93 p 5

[Faris al-Salman report: "Efforts To Hold Iranian-Kuwaiti Summit Continue"]

[Text] Kuwait—Abolqasm Sha'sha'i, Iranian charge d'affaires in Kuwait, has emphasized that efforts to arrange an Iranian-Kuwaiti summit soon are still continuing.

Sha'sha'i said in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that President Hashemi-Rafsanjani proposed the idea of the summit to Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah during a telephone conversation which he held with him during recent OPEC meetings in Geneva.

Sha'sha'i added that he was waiting for a written invitation in this connection from President Rafsanjani to submit it to the Kuwaiti Government. He emphasized that the invitation will be received within a few days.

Sha'sha'i also emphasized that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal will meet soon.

Sha'sha'i pointed out that the telephone conversation between Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani helped to surmount the obstacles that lingered over OPEC's meetings in Geneva.

Qatar

Amir Receives Message From Vietnam's President

JN1910150893 Manama BNA in Arabic 1210 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Doha, 19 Oct (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani has received a verbal message from Vietnam's President Le Duc Anh. The message was relayed by Nguyen Khanh, Vietnam's

deputy prime minister for economic, cultural, and educational affairs, when he was received by the Qatari amir today.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister; 'Aba-al-'Aziz 'Abdallah, education minister; and members of the Vietnamese delegation..

The Qatari news agency said the message concerns Vietnam's desire to strengthen and improve ties of friendship and cooperation with Qatar, especially in the political and economic fields, as well as in trade and investment. The message included an invitation from the Vietnamese president to the Qatari amir to visit Vietnam.

The Qatari news agency added that discussion during the meeting revolved around the possibility of improving cooperation between the two countries in all fields, including the political, economic, and technical fields, and in the fields of labor, education, and training. Discussion also revolved around conditions in the Middle East and East Asia.

Saudi Arabia

King Hold Talks With Egypt's Mubarak at Airport

NC2010173293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1432 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Jeddah, 20 Oct (MENA)—Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, director of the President's Press Office, has stated that President Husni Mubarak and Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz held a round of talks at the VIP lounge at Jeddah's King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Airport. They reviewed Arab, Islamic, and international issues.

'Abd-al-Mun'im said that the two leaders' meeting lasted for two hours and dealt with various problems faced by the Arabs and Muslims, notably the vital peace process and its future prospects. He added that Mubarak and Fahd also discussed developments in the Gulf and Somalia, coordinating their stands vis-a-vis these issues in order to help solve these problems and explain the Arab views on them to other countries. He pointed out that the two leaders also discussed some aspects of the close Egyptian-Saudi relationship.

'Abd-al-Mus'im noted that an atmosphere of total understanding prevailed during the meeting with both leaders expressing identical views on everything that was discussed.

'Abd-al-Mun'im reported that at the beginning the members of the two countries' delegations participated in the discussions. The talks were afterwards limited to a private meeting between President Mubarak and King Fahd. 'Abd-al-Mun'im said that the talks then continued during a dinner banquet, which the Saudi monarch hosted for President Mubarak and his delegation.

Mubarak was accompanied by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, chief of the Presidential Office; and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

President Mubarak's visit to Saudi Arabia comes several days before his excellency's scheduled visit to the United States and France. He will meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington on 25 October and with French President Francois Mitterrand at the end of the month.

Mubarak Said Mediating for Jordan

JN2110113793 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Oct 93 p 25

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Cairo—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak yesterday, Wednesday, held a lengthy session of talks with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, immediately after his arrival in Jeddah on an unannounced, brief visit, which lasted for a few hours.

The talks fall within the framework of intensive Egyptian efforts before the U.S.-Egyptian summit between Egyptian President Mubarak and U.S. President Clinton, scheduled to convene next week in Washington.

AL-RA'Y's correspondent in Cairo learned that Mubarak-Fahd summit focused on the prospects for a Saudi reconciliation with Jordan and the Palestinians as a prelude to a Gulf reconciliation that would pave the way for a comprehensive inter-Arab reconciliation. The correspondent learned that this summit may form the basis for an expected summit in the next few days between Egyptian President Mubarak and His Majesty King Husayn in Cairo.

These activities fall within an Egyptian effort to build a strong, united Arab position to support the peace process in the region which can only be strengthened through the restoration of normal relations between Gulf states and Jordan and the Palestinians.

An official source observed that President Mubarak left Jeddah yesterday evening following a two-hour meeting with the Saudi king in which they discussed the Middle East peace process. The source added that the two leaders also discussed the situation in the Gulf and Somalia, as well as bilateral ties.

Mubarak Leaves Jeddah

NC2010153893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Jeddah, 20 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and his delegation left Jeddah for Cairo this afternoon after talks with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, at the royal lounge of King 'Abd-al-'Aziz Airport in Jeddah.

During the meeting, the two Arab leaders reviewed Arab and Islamic situations and international relations.

King Fahd and senior Saudi officials were at the airport to see off President Mubarak.

Crown Prince Receives Syrian Foreign Minister

LD2010163493 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 20 Oct (SPA)—This afternoon His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, received in his office at the National Guard Headquarters His Excellency Faruq al Shar', foreign minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, who led the Syrian delegation at the meetings of the Saudi-Syrian Committee that ended last night. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Al-Bid on Relations Within Leadership

PM1910155693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Oct 93 p 3

[Interview with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice president and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, by 'Abdallah Hammudah in Aden; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Hammudah] What is known as "political seclusion" among press circles began after your visit to the United States for medical treatment. Let us discuss some of the points related to it, like your meeting with U.S. Vice President Al Gore. It was said that Yemeni Ambassador to Washington Muhsin al-'Ayni refused to arrange the meeting. The meeting was arranged by Occidental Petroleum President Mr. Irani. Then al-'Ayni tried to attend the meeting, but you refused to let him. This marked the beginning of a series of problems that led to the present situation. What is the truth about what happened?

[Al-Bid] I went to the United States for medical treatment. As for the meeting with the vice president, who kindly gave us this opportunity, it had not been planned. It happened as a result of an invitation I sent to Gore in response to Mr. Irani's proposal to the president ('Ali 'Abdallah Salih) when he visited Sanaa. At the president's request, I officially sent an invitation to Gore before Irani was to visit Yemen on 23 September on the occasion of inaugurating oil exports from the Masilah oilfield (in Hadhramaut) through the port of al-Shihr on the Arabian Sea. The company made its efforts to arrange the visit after that.

As for the ambassador's position, it corresponds to what you said. He did not show any enthusiasm, and I personally told him nothing. Then the arrangements were made by the company itself, so I agreed, of course.

[Hammudah] Did you officially invite Al Gore during the meeting?

[Al-Bid] The invitation had been sent in writing before I left Yemen. However, I repeated the invitation and congratulated him on the approval of the budget plan. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] Let us move on to Sultan Qabus' visit. It was said that Yusuf Bin-'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, had come to Aden and agreed on the visit's program. People had expected the sultan to visit Aden during his recent visit to Yemen, but he did not and a great deal was then said about the reasons for that. Later the Omanis denied they had arranged the visit. So what is the truth about this?

[Al-Bid] You can ask the protocol staff. There was coordination, but the sultan visited Sanaa only and then returned. I personally did not know about that. What we are told seems to be wrong and untrue. There is no justification for it. I visited Sultan Qabus in Muscat, so is it difficult for me to receive him in Aden or anywhere else?

The arrangements were known to people. They were not secret. People went to the airport, and there was official preparation for the visit. We hope these things will not be repeated. I spoke with Sultan Qabus over the telephone and had some idea of what happened. He knows, and so do all the brothers in the leadership in Sanaa, now I am in Aden.

[Hammudah] It was said that the visit [to Aden] was canceled to avoid any sensitivities. Many other reasons were mentioned, like avoiding sensitivities among security elements, and so on.

[Al-Bid] We tried to avoid all that, so I was asked not to go to the airport. I responded and said I would not go to the airport if that is in Yemen's interests. Then they told the sultan that I would not meet him at the airport, and so he backtracked on the visit.

It was they who asked me to do that, and you can ask the prime minister about this. It was he who told us of the president's wish and the Omanis' wish, so I said I had no objection. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] The points we are discussing now show that there is no dialogue among the parties in the Yemeni leadership, when all the leaders are talking about the importance of and need for dialogue.

[Al-Bid] I am compelled to resort to seclusion as a means of dialogue. Because dialogue is no use. We tend to say that everything is fine, but nothing is done with regard to implementation. And no one says "no" or "we differ." Even written agreements are not implemented. I cannot be just a figure in the council, talk to the media, or sit decoratively at the expense of others. I have not been brought up to do that, brother. [passage omitted]

We want all hands to embrace and rebuild Yemen. We have on many occasions spoken with people and cadres,

and we repeat that we are not joking; we mean what we say. This is not the first time we have talked about this matter. What do people understand from this?

We do not want them to give a certificate in fighting or tension. We are tired of that. We are looking for a new certificate for us and for our brothers in Yemen, that is in the new school on the new path we have chosen, namely through argument and dialogue and by looking for a solution and organizing ourselves to proceed on this path.

[Hammudah] True, organizations and institutions are required in any modern state, and the new regime requires a president and vice president. Some elements from the other parties say that you want to secure the vice president's post for yourself by acquiring constitutional powers. And that a vice president is a reserve for the president and carries out certain specific tasks. What is your opinion?

[Al-Bid] Brother, that is not my problem. I never aspired to hold that post, nor did I think about it when the union was announced. All we want is to achieve progress for our country, that is on the same path we have chosen, not outside it. I did not go to the House of Representatives, because it is not my problem. The issue is to solve people's problems. I know my absence would not solve them. We need the institutions to work. As for the powers issue, it is not important in any of the developing countries, and you know that. There are many constitutions and laws, but they are merely a facade. People tend to accept a good law as long as it does not affect them. They observe it and follow it when it affects others. This is what prompts people to violate the law, institutions, and powers. All I want is for the country to proceed in accordance with what we agreed on, and for a new mechanism to be found for the unified Yemeni state, then let people say what they like. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] You said in one of your speeches that constitutional reforms are not important at present, and we have a Constitution that we should implement first.

[Al-Bid] That is not the issue. They should not preoccupy the people with constitutional reforms. The people want to reform their life, their conditions, their grievances. We should not drive the House of Representatives into labyrinths. Let the House play its role in reinforcing the legislative authority's control over the executive authority. That is their job. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] Let us move to the issue of unifying the Army. The government said that this would be done within three months, and the president praised this. But you pointed to difficulties that could obstruct this process. And you are demanding that the Armed Forces be withdrawn from Sanaa. There is information that the Army has not been unified yet. Where is the truth?

[Al-Bid] True, the Army has not been unified. If there is a sincere position and intention, it will be unified. But it seems that intention is out of the question. We have files and proposals on this issue made by the defense minister since the union was announced. We cannot publish these issues. But if there is a quarter somewhere in the state which has this authority, it can review all that has been submitted to the chairman of the Presidential Council by the defense minister over the past period on merging the Armed Forces.

[Hammudah] Is one of the reasons obstructing the unification of the Armed Forces the view of some members of the regime regarding the regime's security, or has the dialogue not reached this point?

[Al-Bid] We have not reached any point, because the matter is confined to a few people. It is a sensitive question that is difficult to raise with people or the media. [passage omitted]

Parties Present Plan To End Political Crisis

PM2010160493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Oct 93 p 5

[Lutfi Shatarah report: "Yemeni Opposition Parties Draw up Plan To Avert Eruption of Political Crisis"]

[Text] Aden—A number of Yemeni opposition parties, tribesmen, and national forces have signed a plan containing basic foundations for the stability of the regime in Yemen in the wake of the continued disagreement between Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his deputy 'Ali Salim al-Bid over a number of issues relating to the building of the state.

The plan signed by leaders of the opposition parties and tribal chiefs in a meeting held yesterday morning in Shaykh Sinan Abu-Luhum's house says that what is happening in the country is attributable to the weakness of the foundations on which government in Yemen was based and the ruling parties' bad political program, which was based on tireless attempts to transcend and marginalize the other party and to return to one color.

Participants added that the political program, which they described as "backward, has turned government into maneuvers, tactics, polarizations, and schemes whose fuel is the homeland's capabilities and destinies and whose victim is the citizen, whose problems and concerns have increased while his rulers are busy with their maneuvers."

Shaykh Sinan Abu-Luhum has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "Two years have elapsed since we started to talk about a reconciliation among the ruling parties. But these disagreements are attributable to nothing except the rulers themselves."

Opposition party representatives and tribesmen who participated in formulating the plan containing the foundations for the state's stability, which is expected to be discussed with the ruling coalition parties (the People's Congress, Socialist Party, and the Reform Grouping), believe that they are clearly proposing a real remedy that prevents a continuation and repetition of the political

crisis, removes the fuse capable of detonating it, and helps to define a unified position toward those who violate what is agreed by the majority.

The plan contains 16 points offering a number of proposals about the work of the House of Representative and the government. This is in addition to drawing up rules for disposition of public funds and organizing local administration, public employment, the judiciary, the Armed Forces, public security, the political security organ, administration division, the shura council, and the position on the official media, as well as establishing a national security council and appointing a committee for monitoring and consolidating the democratic option.

The plan urged the parliament to apply rigorous control over the executive committee and monitor its commitment to the implementation of regulations and laws—which ensures that work inside the administrative organ is proceeding in a sound manner and protects citizens against arbitrariness. The opposition parties demanded the formation of a government that carries out its tasks stipulated in the Constitution. They also demanded that the coalition parties refrain from interfering in its affairs and avoid sowing the seeds of disagreements inside it.

The opposition criticized the ruling parties' disposition of public funds as though it is a personal right. It urged that these funds not be disposed of outside the framework of the general budget. The opposition urged the finance minister to pay the budgets to those quarters specified by the general budget. It urged the Central Bank to adhere to its job, to rescue the national currency from deterioration, and to reactivate the role of the central control and audit agency and place it under the direct supervision of the legislative authority, ensuring that its reports are made public.

The opposition parties called for a change in the method of forming the supreme judiciary council, allocating its leadership to an independent judicial figure to be elected by the parliament. The opposition urged that regional, tribal, racial, or sectarian legacies not be allowed to affect the military establishment. It urged all parties to respect the neutrality of the Armed Forces and the security forces and not to push them into political conflicts among political parties and organizations.

The opposition also called for compelling the presidential council and the government to quickly implement the decision relating to removing camps from the cities and to abolish all inspection points inside the cities and on the roads linking the cities with the countryside, siting such points in smuggling areas.

The opposition proposed the formation of a national committee in which the ruling coalition, the opposition national bloc, all Yemeni parties, specialized professors, and a number of scientists, tribal chiefs, lawyers, and political, social, and unionist figure participate. The task of this committee is to draw up constitutional reforms or a new draft constitution. When the draft plan is completed, the committee should refer it to a broadly based national dialogue in which the media and the educational, scientific, and judicial institutions would participate.

The parties urged the formation of a shura council to broaden popular participation. It is to be elected equally among the republic's governorates, and its sphere of authority is to be defined precisely so as not to conflict with the legislative or executive councils. They should complement one another. The parties stressed the importance of establishing a national security council to take care of studies and views relating to the homeland's sovereignty and destiny and the protection of its development.

Political sources believe that the plan prepared by the opposition parties, tribesmen, and national figures combines the points proposed by the the Yemeni Socialist party and the [General] People's Congress, especially the primary demands to resolve the current crisis in the country.

'Joint Council' With Iran Reportedly Being Formed

PM2010134693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Oct 93 p 1

[Amir Tahiri report: "Iran and Iraq Considering Formation of Joint Ministerial Council"]

[Text] Tehran, London—Iraqi and Iranian sources said yesterday that Iraq and Iran are planning to set up a joint council at ministerial level to develop relations between the two countries and in order to—as they put it—"confront U.S. influence in the region."

The issue was discussed in the first meeting held in Baghdad between Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal.

The final decision is expected to be taken during Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's visit to Baghdad in the next few weeks.

Zarif told the Iraqis yesterday that Tehran is willing to help Baghdad "to alleviate the suffering caused by the international boycott" in the Iraqi areas adjacent to Iran.

The two sides are studying a formula that allows Iraq to increase its imports from Iran without causing the latter to be accused of violating the UN embargo.

Tehran emphasized that it is fully committed to the UN resolutions on the embargo. But it has over recent months reduced border controls on trade traffic from and to Iraq.

Zarif, the most senior Iranian official to visit Baghdad since 1980, is carrying a message from Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The sources say that the message urges the Iraqi president to comply—quickly—with the clauses of Security Council Resolution 598 which ended the state of war between the two neighboring countries after eight years of fighting. It adds that the two countries should work together to confront "the hegemony of the United States, Israel, and their friends over the region," after implementing the clauses of the resolution.

The idea of establishing stronger ties between Tehran and Baghdad was raised for the first time last September, when a senior Iraqi diplomat visited Tehran secretly. This visit opened the door to a meeting between Velayati and Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf in New York last month.

Iranian Delegation Visits Shrines

JN2010183493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Karbala', 20 Oct (INA)—An Iranian delegation led by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif visited the Karbala' Governorate this morning. The delegation was received by Karbala' Governor 'Abd-al-Khaliq 'Abd-al-'Aziz.

The Karbala' governor briefed the delegation on the criminal and savage impact of the 30-state aggression, the chapter of treachery and treason, and the massive devastation caused to holy shrines, places of worship, state agencies, and citizens' property in the governorate.

The governor also spoke to the delegation about the impact of the wrongful embargo imposed on our steadfast people.

The Iranian delegation had earlier visited the two holy and chaste shrines of al-Husayniyah and al-'Abbasiyah. The delegation noted the attention accorded to holy shrines and other places of worship by the leadership under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. It commended this care, which it said, is commensurate with the religious and historical significance of these shrines.

The delegation also visited the Steadfastness and Defiance Museum in the governorate, which documents the acts carried out by the agents of Americans and Zionists, as well as the acts carried out during the chapter of treachery and treason.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his delegation also visited the mausoleum of Imam 'Ali Bin-Abi Talib. Al-Najaf Governor Karim Hasan Rida briefed the delegation on the reconstruction and development endeavor witnessed in the governorate, particularly the reconstruction and maintenance work carried out at the mausoleums of imams and prominent religious scholars and other places of worship. He also briefed the delegation on the attention His Excellency President Saddam Husayn accords to the mausoleum of his noble ancestor Imam 'Ali, may God's peace be upon him, and the Holy Haydarite Shrine.

The Iranian delegation expressed its admiration of the architectural, developmental, and cultural renaissance it has seen. It also admired the mausoleum of Imam 'Ali, may God's peace be upon him.

The guest delegation also visited the mausoleum of Imam Muslim Bin-'Aqil. It was briefed on the reconstruction and expansion work currently under way at the mausoleum. This work will be commensurate with the religious and historical significance of the mausoleum.

The Iranian delegation had arrived here on Sunday [17 October] on a visit of several days to Iraq.

U.S. Diplomat, Tariq 'Aziz Reportedly Meet in Amman

JN2010152693 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 19 Oct 93 p 1

["Exclusive to AKHIR KHABAR"]

[Text] AKHIR KHABAR has learned that a senior U.S. Embassy official met with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Amman a week ago.

The meeting, which was arranged by a well-known Jordanian personality, signals some change in the U.S. position.

Tariq 'Aziz 'Determined To Exploit' French Trip

PM2010140293 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Oct 93 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "'Aziz Needs Heart Surgery"]

[Excerpt] Paris, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz yesterday underwent a series of medical tests and examinations in Paris amid reports that he is suffering from heart problems and may need surgery to remove a blockage in the arteries. But diplomatic sources in Paris have said that the Iraqi deputy prime minister is determined to exploit the opportunity of his stay in Paris "to serve Baghdad's new strategy."

'Aziz left for France secretly last Saturday aboard a private jet after French authorities granted him a temporary entry visa. He submitted the visa application via Morocco, which is looking after Iraqi interests in Paris. This happened a few days after the agreement of the new French Government, led by Edouard Balladur, that the two countries open interests offices in Paris and Baghdad.

French sources insist that there are no arrangements to hold official talks with Tariq 'Aziz, who has been allowed to visit France on a "purely humanitarian basis." But some sources said yesterday that a former de Gaulle minister has already met with 'Aziz.

The sources also said that Tariq 'Aziz has held a "non-political" telephone conversation with a former socialist minister.

Analysts say that Tariq 'Aziz's emergence in Paris is part of Baghdad's new strategy based on giving the impression that matters are returning to normal as regards its relations with the outside world. [passage omitted]

Visit To 'Penetrate' French Diplomacy

JN2110122493 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Oct 93 p 25

["Exclusive" report]

[Text] Cairo—A high-level Iraqi source in Cairo reveled that the recent visit which Iraqi Foreign Minister [title as published] Tariq 'Aziz made to the French capital, Paris, falls within the framework of the Iraqi diplomatic moves to win European support for ending the embargo imposed by the UN Security Council on Iraq.

The source told the AL-RA'Y correspondent in Cairo that 'Aziz's visit to Paris is particularly important in view of the reports by the UN mission which confirm Iraq's compliance with the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions and which indicate the possibility for a successful negotiations to end the embargo imposed on Iraq.

In a related development, Arab political sources revealed that the Iraqi foreign minister's visit to the French capital was preceded by secret talks between Baghdad and Paris to prepare for the visit. The French Government gave the green light for the Iraqi initiative, which was enthusiastically pursued by 'Aziz, who has strong connections with Elysee officials and French diplomats.

The sources added that covering the main purpose of the Iraqi foreign minister's visit was possible because of Baghdad's understanding of the French desire to avoid a misunderstanding between the French Government and Arab Gulf states. The French Government also sought to block the French opposition from taking advantage of the visit to exercise one-upmanship over the government's attitude toward Iraq. Furthermore, Baghdad was not interested in employing the propaganda results of the visit. Therefore, the two parties agreed that the visit would be covered as one made for health reasons.

It is worth noting that Iraq held successful talks with a number of major French oil companies last week. The talks sought to pave the way for these companies' return to invest in the prospecting and refining of Iraqi oil.

Arab and western sources in Cairo expect that if the Iraqi Government succeeds in rebuilding diplomatic and political bridges with France, or at least in neutralizing France, the possibility of maintaining the UN Security Council embargo next year will, to some extent, be weakened, especially after Iraq has implemented Paragraph C of the UN Security Council resolution pertaining to the dismantling of weapons of mass destruction. The sources said that if Tariq 'Aziz's recent visit to Paris succeeds, Iraq will succeed in its attempt to penetrate the European and French diplomacy.

It is also worth recalling that the Iraqi and French sides signed an agreement to settle French debts with Iraq which amount to 30 million French francs. In return, a number of French pharmaceutical and food companies will be allowed to restore financial and trade links with the Iraqi Government.

Defection of Military Plane to Saudi Arabia Denied

JN2010152393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Oct (INA)—An Iraqi official spokesman has denied a report by the Zionist entity radio today that an Iraqi military aircraft has defected to Saudi Arabia. The spokesman said that the report was entirely fabricated.

Explosion Reported at Party Office in Baghdad

JN2010153493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1505 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] An official spokesman has announced that at 0745 [0445 GMT] today, certain agents who have sold their

honor to foreigners parked a booby-trapped car at the [Ba'th Party] branch office opposite the Semiramis Cinema on al-Sa'dun Street in Baghdad. The car bomb explosion caused damage to glass facades and nearby buildings. Two people were also wounded in the explosion.

Health Minister Details Embargo-Related Fatalities

JN2010174093 Baghdad INA in English 20 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 20 (INA)—The Ministry of Health has recently released a report on mortality rates among Iraqis whose age ranges from under five to over fifty. The report said the deaths were caused by diarrhoea, pneumonia, and malnutrition in September 1993. The statistics indicate a sharp increase in the said rates if compared to pre-war period.

According to the ministry, the under five mortality rate caused by diarrhoea increased from 123 in September 1989 to 1,712 in September 1993. Pneumonia was the cause behind increasing the mortality rate from 69 in September 1989 to 793 last month among children under five years while malnutrition raised the rate from 67 to 1,672 for the same period.

As for mortality rate among people over 50, the statistics indicate that hypertension caused 274 deaths in September 1993 which means a 158 per cent increase if compared to the number of deaths in September 1989.

Deaths as a result of diabetes increased from 73 to 179 while deaths caused by malignant tumors increased from 260 to 762 in September.

Meanwhile, Minister of Health Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak has said the U.S.-inspired embargo on Iraq caused a four-fold increase in mortality rate among Iraqi children.

Dr. Mubarak added that fatalities among children have risen sharply because of the acute shortage of food and medicine caused by the UN sanctions.

He stressed that statistics of his ministry and UNICEF (UN Children's Fund) recorded 25 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 in comparison with 92 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1992.

Dr. Mubarak went on to say that mortality rate among children under five has recorded a noticeable increase in post-war period. Noting that a sharp increase in Typhoid, Viral Hepatitis and diseases of the respiratory tracts has been recorded during the past three years.

The minister said that the economic blockade and severe malnutrition have caused a sharp rise in the cases of Measles, Marasmus and Kwashiorkor (severe tropical disease of children whose diet does not contain enough protein).

Dr. Mubarak elaborated that the war and the sanctions have greatly affected nutritional status of Iraqi children. "A large number of children are currently suffering from severe malnutrition due to lack of food and milk." He said.

Meanwhile, a well-known Iraqi doctor said that 25 per cent of deaths among children in Iraq are caused by acute respiratory infections. She said most children who are admitted to hospitals have respiratory infection.

Iraq, in cooperation with UNICEF, has launched a medical campaign to control the increase in respiratory infections. The campaign is meant to reduce the respiratory infections by 25 per cent by the year 1997.

However, according to Iraqi physicians, the campaign fell short of medicine and vaccines because of the U.S.-inspired trade sanctions.

State-Run Factories Sold to 'Mixed Sector'

JN2010172793 Baghdad INA in English 1545 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 20 (INA)—Two state-run factories have been sold to the mixed sector, THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER newspaper said today.

The two factories, one produces cement in al-Samawah, al-Muthanna Province and the other makes bricks in al-Diwaniyah, al-Qadisiyah Province, used to be run fully by the Ministry of Industry and Minerals. Now, the plants are to be run jointly by the ministry and the private sector. The ministry will supervise the factory and the private sector is to buy parts of shares of the factories which were put for sale in the stock exchange in Baghdad.

The cement plant in al-Muthanna will have a capital of 100 million Iraqi dinars [ID] while the brick factory in al-Qadisiyah will have a capital of ID 22 million.

The factories will have a company status.

On September 13, the Revolution Command Council issued a decision converting some of the ministry's factories to mixed sector companies.

The decision was signed by President Saddam Husayn.

The Ministry of Industry and Minerals has recently started to apply that decision.

The cement factory in al-Muthanna produces two million tonnes of cement yearly while al-Qadisiyah's brick factory produces 140 million bricks for construction every year.

The move is part of the government policy to boost the private sector in Iraq.

This is not the first time that the ministry has put its factories for sale to the private sector. In 1988 and 1989 the ministry sold more than 70 of its plants to the private sector. These include the soft drinks factory in Baghdad and many other foodstuff plants in Baghdad and the provinces.

Most of the plants operated by the ministry were heavily bombed by the U.S. and its allies' warplanes in 1991. However, the ministry was able to reconstruct and reoperate most of them.

Some 75 per cent of shares of the two factories recently put for sale by the ministry will be owned by the private sector while the remaining 25 per cent would be owned by the government.

U.S. Envoy Ross Meets With Rabin, Peres, Others

Rabin, Ross View 'Palestinian Issue'

TA2010163793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin met this afternoon with the U.S. peace team, led by Mr. Dennis Ross. The meeting focused on the Palestinian issue. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Mr. Rabin stressed the importance that Israel attached to the implementation of the agreement with the Palestinians and the need to make progress in order to imbue the agreement with real meaning.

Dennis Ross said that the Palestinians wanted to convene a committee in Washington within two weeks in order to discuss the structure of the autonomy and the elections for the autonomy council. In their meetings with the U.S. diplomat, the Palestinians also raised the problem of the deportees and the security prisoners. They also noted the huge amounts of money they would require.

Mr. Rabin said he had received the impression that the Palestinians were not aware of the financial and economic complexities of the agreement and of the tremendous cost of its implementation. The negotiations with Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon were also discussed during the meeting.

As for Syria, Prime Minister Rabin noted that Damascus had prevented the Lebanese Government from disarming Hizballah and stopped the Lebanese Army from deploying in the southern part of the country. Mr. Rabin expressed the opinion that the negotiations with Syria were far more complex than those with Jordan.

The last part of the meeting was devoted to a private talk between Rabin and Dennis Ross. The U.S. peace team is now scheduled to begin its meeting with Foreign Minister Peres.

[A similar report by Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 20 October adds that "Mr. Ross said that in his talks with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis, he had received the impression that the Palestinians were very serious and ready to make progress. Ross stated that the Palestinians were prepared to discuss the implementation of autonomy in other fields within the framework of discussions in Washington by a committee which would also deal with elections in the territories. Prime Minister Rabin, for his part, clarified that it was still too early to convene a committee on such advanced issues. The key to the success of the entire affair, Rabin told Ross, was the successful implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. Rabin told Ross that he was personally supervising the discussions at Taba, which were the most important discussions at this time."]

Rabin: Link Aid to Jordan With Ties

TA2110101093 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Oct 93 pp 1, 15

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, Roni Shaqed, and Mikha'el Rozolio in Taba]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin suggested to Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for advancing Middle East peace, that the United States tie additional economic aid to Jordan to a Jordanian announcement that it is ready to establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

Rabin made the remarks yesterday afternoon during his meeting with Ross, who came to Jerusalem from Amman. Jordan urged the United States to reschedule Jordan's $3-billion debt over several years.

Rabin told Ross that the United States must demand from Jordan a political "repayment" in the form of an announcement regarding its readiness to sign a peace agreement with Israel. [passage omitted]

Peres, Ross Focus on Jordanian Track

TA2010203293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this evening conferred with U.S. envoy Dennis Ross. They mainly discussed the need to promote the negotiations with Jordan. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Peres told Ross that the joint economic committee of Jordan, Israel, and the United States should be convened.

The two also discussed Syria. Shim'on Peres said that Israel is not interested in pushing the Syrians out of the negotiations, but that we will not give in to Syrian dictates.

The American envoy arrived in East Jerusalem to meet the Palestinian representatives a short while ago. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that heading the Palestinian delegation was Hanan 'Ashrawi, who was accompanied by four other representatives.

Ross Meets Lubrani, Departs

TA2110123493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The U.S. coordinator for the peace talks, Dennis Ross, left today for Damascus. Last night, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told him Israel would never give in to Syria's dictates. Ross told our reporter that he had found that Israel is committed to a comprehensive settlement and that the United States would continue to work on that. Jack Katzenell reports.

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] [passage omitted] This morning, Dennis Ross had breakfast at the King David Hotel with Uri Lubrani, head of the Israeli team negotiating with Lebanon. Although Ross left early to meet the

president, Lubrani had a very long talk with Aaron Miller and other aides of Ross. I asked Lubrani about the discussion, but he gave very little away.

[Lubrani] Well, we have been discussing the problems concerning making some progress on the Israeli-Lebanese track in anticipation of the American team moving to their meetings with the interested parties.

[Katzenell] But, sir, your meeting took so long and we were wondering since Lebanon cannot do anything anyway without Syria's approval, what was there to talk about?

[Lubrani] Well, there is always something to talk about, and this region is known to be full of surprises. One does not have to leave one stone unturned in order to try and make some progress. This is the purpose of this exercise.

[Katzenell] Are we in for a surprise on the Lebanese track?

[Lubrani] Who knows?

[Katzenell] Did you raise the issue of Ron Arad and the men who have been missing since al-Sultan Ya'qub?

[Lubrani] The issue of our missing soldiers is always raised, is always on the agenda, but unfortunately I have nothing new to report.

[Katzenell] Dennis Ross left today for Damascus for talks with Syrian leaders. On the basis of the results, he may decide to make another visit to Israel tomorrow. [end recording]

Rabin: Prisoner Release Depends on Talks' Progress

TA2110142493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] During a tour of Khan Yunus, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said Israel would release Palestinian prisoners according to the progress in the negotiations on the implementation of the peace agreements. He said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is holding 9,500 prisoners and detainees, and that all the figures reported yesterday are wrong and hinder the negotiations.

Referring to the murder of As'ad al-Saftawi in Gaza at noon today, the prime minister said that this assassination as well as two previous ones could have been the result of a power struggle within the Fatah organization.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Yitzhaq Rabin toured the streets of Khan Yunus, and local residents cheered him on with calls in favor of peace.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal reports that the Palestinian leadership is making vast efforts to persuade its people to uphold a democratic lifestyle and to settle disagreements as democratic societies do. However, the murder in Gaza proves that the reality in the field is totally different and that Palestinians prefer to eliminate rivals by shooting them down. Minister Shahal was speaking to our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling during a tour of installations of Israel Electricity Company which marks its 70th anniversary today.

Plan for Releasing Palestinian Prisoners Reported

TA2010193593 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Our police affairs correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that some 13,000 Palestinian detainees and prisoners are currently jailed in Israel. Data presented today by the police minister indicates that some 9,000 are being held in IDF [Israel Defense Forces] prison facilities, half of whom are administrative detainees, and others are serving prison terms of up to four years. Our correspondent adds that 3,950 security prisoners are locked up in the Prisons Authority jails; 600 of them were convicted of murder, manslaughter, or causing severe harm to Jews.

Uri Kohen-Aharonov has just arrived in the studio with the initial details of the planned stages of releasing the Palestinian prisoners:

[Kohen-Aharonov] In the first stage, in one or two weeks, between 1,500 and 2,000 security prisoners will be released. Two-thirds of them will be released from the Qezi'ot detention facility, which is under IDF [Israel Defense Forces] responsibility, and one-third from the Prisons Authority lockups. According to the plan, the first to be released are prisoners who will have served two-thirds of the time to which they were sentenced. Priority will be given to ill, very old, or very young prisoners and detainees, as well as to female prisoners.

The prisoners eligible for such release will have to express regret for their deeds and no reservations regarding the peace process. The decision will also take into account their political affiliations. More prisoners will be released later, but in any event, prisoners with blood on their hands are not on the current agenda. The decisionmakers are aware of the high sensitivity of the Israeli public to such convicts and it appears they will not be released any time soon.

Release Should Wait for 'Right Climate'

TA2010124793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Oct 93 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "Let the Murderers (On Both Sides) Wait"]

[Excerpts] What is the role of emotions in this tough process? I am not talking about the emotions which could have preempted it, such as the fiery passion (not to mention the intellectual opposition) of the Jewish settlers. Intellect has already had the upper hand, and we are seemingly treading an irreversible route. I am talking about sections of this route, such as the release of Palestinian murderers. [passage omitted]

The release of prisoners presents a special problem because, unlike other issues, it calls for an immediate decision. A large number of prisoners will begin to come out of jail within a few days. The PLO demands the release of all of them, including murderers.

Although its wish will not come true this week, important moral questions have already begun to crop up. Does the release of murderers of children on the other side necessitate the pardon of murderers on this side? What does a "national liberation struggle" mean in this context? Do all the deeds perpetrated by Palestinians against Israeli citizens over all those wretched years—ambushing a soldier and strangling a girl, throwing stones and stabbing a young couple to death, being a member of an underground cell and killing a girl in the street—belong in one bag?

As is the case with such bitter conflicts, the images of death will blur into one bitter and fading memory as years go by. Strong feelings which fed (and still nurture) the conflict will make way to a powerful new reality which many Israelis will find hard to digest. But, all in good time. What is now on the agenda are issues that call for a decision, and we had better deal with them with utmost sensitivity.

The PLO's explanations and pleadings notwithstanding, the release of cold-blooded murderers will harm the process. The feelings of many Israelis who will have a hard time stomaching such a pardon constitute a political factor. There is no reason for supporters of the agreement to want the release of prisoners to be used to lash out at the entire negotiating process. A majority of Israelis in favor of detente with the PLO was mustered quite easily, but this does not mean they will come to terms with the smiling face and the hand raised in a victory sign of a murderer on his way home.

Also, there is no justification to the demands—which would come in the wake of the release of these killers—to set free the Israelis who fired a rocket at an Arab bus, murdered a taxi driver, killed Arab laborers on the outskirts of Rishon Leziyyon, and committed other crimes. There is no need for such a deal to go ahead with the negotiations with the Palestinians. If it is presented as a condition later on, it can very well join other conditions that the sides cannot agree upon.

Many phases which can only be peacefully resolved through wise and creative negotiations, as well as obstacles and disagreements that call for compromise and determination at the right time still lie ahead. The release of convicted murderers will have to wait until the right climate in the budding Palestinian autonomy can justify it without exacting too heavy an emotional price. And, if the negotiations are on such shaky ground that they cannot absorb this delay without collapsing, then they will stumble over other issues.

The assessment that most Israelis were prepared to accept more than what their prime minister had thought during a long period of hesitations was proven right in the last few weeks. This reserve of good will had better not be wasted on unnecessary moves. Let the murderers wait. Just as their masters have no patience, so there is a limit to ours.

Peres on Syrian Talks, Prisoners, Jerusalem Law

TA2110074393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by 'Ido Baum and Pnina Bat-Tzvi on 21 October—recorded]

[Text] [Bat-Tzvi] What negotiating options with Syria were discussed in yesterday's closed meeting with Dennis Ross?

[Peres] If it was a closed meeting; how can we make it public?

[Bat-Tzvi] What can you tell us about that meeting?

[Peres] It was a very good meeting. The Americans also understand that the Syrians have adopted positions Israel finds very hard to accept.

[Baum] Dennis Ross has been tasked with working out some sort of document of principles between us and the Syrians. From his remarks, I understand that most of the progress must be made by the Syrian side. Can you tell us in what specific areas they have to show movement?

[Peres] First, Ross was not tasked with working out a document of principles, because the Americans do not want an American paper. They have avoided this up to now. They see themselves as mediating between the two sides and not replacing one or both of the sides.

The main problems are as follows: First, the Syrians are avoiding saying what they mean by peace. On the contrary, from what they say it is not peace, because peace without ambassadors and open borders is not peace. Second, when it comes to talking about security matters, the Syrians want symmetry, which is inconceivable. It would mean that if areas of the Golan Heights are demilitarized, then parts of Israel must also be demilitarized. Even the Egyptians laugh at that approach. It would have meant matching demilitarization in the Sinai with demilitarization in the Negev. The third unacceptable point is the contradiction between the Syrian behavior in Washington, where they smile, and in Lebanon, where they stick pins and even stab. Finally, they totally ignore the rules of the game. We are offering open negotiations between equals, at the appropriate echelons, and not negotiations along a narrow, hardline track, which does not permit a real exchange of views. These are the issues that are unacceptable to us in the negotiations.

[Baum] HA'ARETZ today contains an evaluation by an American source that the gaps can be reduced within six months and that these are really only al-Asad's opening negotiations positions, that he only wants to appear tough. Do you agree with that optimism?

[Peres] Why should I either reject or support any optimism? I only note that the American source did not identify himself. He is apparently cautious, but if he is optimistic, then that is good.

[Bat-Tzvi] Minister Peres, in reference to the release of Palestinian prisoners, does the government also intend to release Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or only PLO members?

[Peres] I think the criteria will be based on the crimes they committed.

[Baum] The PLO is demanding the release of all the security prisoners. Do you think that when the time comes, public opinion will be more supportive of the idea and that even prisoners with blood on their hands will be freed?

[Peres] I do not think it is a question of public opinion but of making a decision based on the facts. We said the prisoner issue would be dealt with in the negotiations and not through gestures; therefore, we are conducting such negotiations.

[Baum] With your permission, one more question on a political issue. The damage the opposition caused to the coalition's prestige by passing the preliminary reading of the amendment to the Jerusalem Law in the Knesset aside, why not give the declaration the support of 80 Knesset members [MK's], as called for in the amendment, considering that Labor says that Jerusalem is not negotiable?

[Peres] In general, we rely on ourselves and should not do something inconceivable in the Knesset by agreeing to a regular majority deciding that a special majority is required. Thirty-six MK's want to dictate to the Knesset that we must have a majority of 80 MK's. Second, this law is unnecessary. It is merely aimed at interfering with the negotiations. We have passed sufficient laws on Jerusalem. This law is aimed at undermining the public's trust in our position on Jerusalem. Why do we need yet another law?

SHAS, Likud Agree on Amendment to Jerusalem Law

TA2010140493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and the Likud have reached an agreement on presenting the Knesset with a proposal, initiated by Likud's 'Uzi Landau, to amend the Basic Law: Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the SHAS faction promised it will vote in favor of the Likud amendment, which says that Jerusalem will remain united under Israeli sovereignty, and that no change will be made in its status without the support of 80 [of the 120] Knesset members.

The Likud accepted a condition by SHAS to remove a clause saying that Jerusalem will not be open for negotiations. SHAS says that, in the negotiations, each side is entitled to raise its demands. Although it had reservations regarding this demand, the Likud accepted it in a bid to attain broader support for its offer.

The coalition factions, Labor and Meretz, announced they will vote against the amendment because they regard it as simply propaganda.

Coalition Endures 'Big Defeat'

TA2010184693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] A big defeat for the coalition tonight: By 36 to 33 votes, the Knesset voted in favor of the preliminary reading of the Likud-sponsored amendment to the Basic Law: Jerusalem which pledges that the capital will remain united and any changes in its status will require a vote of 80 Knesset members. The Likud managed to get the support of the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Party for the amendment, on condition that it strike out the clause stating that Jerusalem cannot be the subject of any future negotiations.

Qol Yisra'el's Knesset reporter says the coalition was very worried that the amendment might pass, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin even cut short his meeting with SHAS leader Arye Der'i in order to go to the Knesset to be on hand for the vote.

Shahal Reveals Contacts With Unnamed Gulf State

TA2110151493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Israel has been holding contacts with a Persian Gulf state which is seeking to sell natural gas to Europe through Israel, Energy Minister Moshe Shahal revealed today during a tour of Israel Electricity Company installations. Although he would not disclose the identity of the country, he noted that Egypt got wind of these contacts and consequently put forth its own proposal to lay down a natural gas pipeline from the Nile delta to Israel.

Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that Minister Shahal will visit Cairo next month to discuss the Egyptian proposal. [passage omitted]

Policy on German-Iranian Nuclear Ties Criticized

TA2010114193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Government policy came under fire this morning in the Knesset over the efforts to stop German supplies of atomic, biological, and chemical weapons to Iran. The criticism came especially from within the Labor party. The Knesset is to relate to the German Bundestag the minutes from this morning's debate. David Ze'ev reports:

Government policy on the German-Iranian connection was criticized in the Knesset plenum, primarily from

within the ruling Labor party. Wayward Knesset Members [MK] Efrayim Sne and 'Imanu'el Zismann criticized Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin's assurance that Israel has raised the issue with the German Foreign Ministry and that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres raised the issue recently with his German counterpart and with Chancellor Helmut Kohl. MK's Sne and Zismann demanded a more aggressive policy. They were joined by Sha'ul Yahalom of the National Religious Party.

The central theme was the obligation of the Jewish state to stop German arming of an enemy of Israel. Confronted by the three members of the house, Deputy Minister Beilin said the problem is complex; that the German Government maintains it is trying to prevent, not encourage, private companies to have ties with Iran. And, said Beilin, the phenomenon is not limited to Germany, but there are ties between American and European companies outside Germany with Iran as well.

The deputy foreign minister said the best policy for Israel is to combine dialogue and efforts to check the facts, together with a public policy, presumably of international awareness. The Knesset is to relay to the German Bundestag the minutes from this morning's mini-debate on the issue.

Beilin Says Contacts With DPRK Suspended

TA2110102393 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Oct 93 p 2

[Report by Daniyel Ben-Simon]

[Text] Israel has suspended its contacts with the DPRK under orders from the prime minister and foreign minister, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin disclosed yesterday in answer to a query by Knesset Member Ya'aqov Shefi.

Beilin disclosed that there is no intention of establishing diplomatic ties with the DPRK. "North Korea has a policy of developing and selling missiles and technology to Iran and other Middle East states. As long as it pursues that policy, there is no room to discuss forming diplomatic ties with that country," Beilin said.

Beilin admitted that the United States had expressed reservations about Israel's contacts with North Korea because "the U.S. Administration does not see the point of maintaining these contacts," he said.

Minister Aloni Leaves for Tour of FRG, France, UK

TA2010155493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Shulamit Aloni, minister of communications, science, and the arts, has left for Germany to attend a Nuremberg ceremony inaugurating the Human Rights Avenue in the city where the Nazi racist rules were legislated and the trials of the Nazi criminals were held. The ceremony will also be attended by fighters for human rights from around the globe.

In the coming two weeks, Minister Aloni will tour Germany, France, and Britain, and will deal with her ministry's affairs. Next week, she will address the UNESCO General Assembly in Paris.

Convicted Spy in Hiding Following Release From Jail

TA2110105993 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 21 Oct 93 p 1

[Excerpts] Major Yosef 'Amit, who was convicted of spying and was released from jail, is now with his family in a preplanned hiding place where he plans to build his future. [passage omitted] 'Amit, dressed in prison garb, was smuggled out of prison 11 days ago in the prison commander's car, while his wife left secretly from a different exit. [passage omitted]

U.S. Envoy Ross Begins Talks in Amman 20 Oct

JN2010131893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] The Jordanian side, led by Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and the U.S. side led by Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the Middle East peace negotiations, held a meeting at the Prime Ministry this morning in which latest developments of the peace process and ways of accelerating them in accordance with the UN resolutions were discussed.

On the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by Minister of Planning Dr. Ziyad Fariz; Finance Minister Sami Qammuh; Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affair; and Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, the Jordanian ambassador in Washington and head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations; and a number of ranking officials.

On the U.S. side, the meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying Ross, and Douglas Keene, the U.S. charge d'affaires in Amman.

Meets King, Prince Hasan

JN2010180893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] In the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today Dennis Ross, the U.S. Middle East peace coordinator, and his delegation. Mr. Ross delivered to his majesty a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Talks dealt with the latest developments in the peace process and the means of continuing the process to reach its goal of realizing a just, comprehensive peace in the region. The talks also focused on defining the future steps that should be taken to maintain the momentum of the peace process.

They also discussed bilateral and regional issues, as well as issues of cooperation.

Mr. Ross noted the need to reschedule Jordan's foreign debt and to help it overcome its burdens and challenges.

This morning, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received Dennis Ross. The meeting dealt with the latest developments of the peace process in the Middle East. His highness was briefed on a number of U.S. concepts to reinforce the peace process.

The U.S. envoy reaffirmed the U.S. Administration's commitment to maintaining the peace process and mediating between parties to the conflict.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan reviewed Jordan's position on pending issues and ways of reaching a just, comprehensive peace in the region. He also reviewed the grave events that the region has experienced throughout the past decades and the burdens that resulted.

On the Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the Royal Hashemite Court chief; Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, the minister of state for cabinet affairs; and Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, the Jordanian ambassador in Washington. On the U.S. side, the meeting was attended by Martin Indyk, a special aide to the U.S. President; (Wayne Miller, Dan Kertzer, and Peter Martins) from the U.S. State Department, and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Amman.

News Conference Held

JN2110103293 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1708 GMT 20 Oct 93

["Full new conference" by Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs, and Dennis Ross, U.S. Middle East peace coordinator, with unidentified correspondents in Amman on 20 October—recorded]

[Text] [Ross] Let me start by expressing my thanks to the king for graciously receiving us, and we very much appreciate the hospitality both in its general sense and in terms of the conduct and the character of our discussions, which were extremely good. We really focused on a number of things. First and foremost, we focused on implementation of the Declaration of Principles and of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda. One of the things that was a very strong point of agreement is that it is very important to move ahead quickly. It is very important to see things change on the ground, and the implementation is really a focal point of activity at this stage. Secondly, we also talked about the importance of broadening the peace process and doing all we can in that respect to make progress on all the other bilateral tracks, and thirdly, we talked about the importance of improving the environment for peacemaking in the region as a whole.

[Al-'Anani] Well, we've had quite an extensive program since the arrival of Mr. Ross and his companions yesterday. We've had three different meetings. I think that they were businesslike, serious, and we attended to the different issues which I think Dennis has just described. So, that's all I am going to say. I think that we had very serious and fruitful discussions.

[Reporter] Mr. Ross, have you discussed the debt relief to Jordan with the Jordanian officials today?

[Ross] We did. We talked about the debt question. We, from our end, talked about the President's commitment to trying to be as responsive as we can be on the issue of debt. We talked about some of the difficulties that will be faced, but we also made it clear that we will do all we can to try to move ahead on this issue.

[Reporter] Do you have have any kind of practical steps that you are going to do it according to this situation?

[Ross] Well, we will, in fact, be following up with others. But, we are still in a position where we have to sort out exactly what is possible. There still are some, I think,

efforts that we are going to make on our own, and then we will talk with others who are some of the creditors to figure out how best we might reduce the burden that Jordan is currently feeling.

[Reporter] Mr. Ross, any promises concerning the sanctions on al-'Aqabah Port?

[Ross] Well, we did have a discussion on the question. We made it clear it is very important from our standpoint to ensure that the sanctions regime is one that continues to be enforced, but we want to look for ways to also take account of Jordan's needs and try to be responsive to Jordan's needs while also ensuring the integrity of the sanctions regime.

[Reporter] Mr. Ambassador, would you kindly specify the role of the Jordanian-American-Israeli economic working group that was announced in the White House when his royal highness [Crown Prince Hasan] met with President Clinton?

[Ross] Well, we see that as an important mechanism for developing and coordinating on projects that could be of mutual benefit. We see it as an important mechanism for coordinating on broader efforts to promote peace, and also areas of economic cooperation and economic development. So, we will hope to be able to move ahead in terms of having a meeting of such a group in the near future. That's one of the things we talked about here and we will be talking about that with the Israelis, as well.

[Reporter] Are you carrying with you any suggestions concerning the Syrian track, the Syrian-Israeli track?

[Ross] Well, that's obviously a track that we are committed to try to make progress on. I have not yet been to either Israel or Syria. So, at this stage we know that, from our standpoint this is an area of importance if one is going to make progress toward a comprehensive settlement. We are convinced that both in Israel and in Syria, there is a commitment to working on this process. There are complicated issues that are going to have to be sorted out. It may take time to do that, but we are committed to doing all we can to try to make progress there.

[Reporter] Is there any specific area of cooperation that you feel Jordan can provide in terms of the Israel-Palestinian [agreement]?

[Ross] Well, there, if you look at the Declaration of Principles, within the Declaration of Principles itself, there is an expectation and a need that Jordan will take part. The fact of the matter is that when one begins talking about economic cooperation, many of the issues that come up there necessarily involve Jordan, as well. That is something that we have understood clearly not only from the character of the Declaration of Principles but frankly from the discussions that we've had with Palestinians and Israelis and also with the Jordanians. So, I think that as steps are taken to build economic cooperation, as steps are taken to change the realities on the ground, especially with regard to economic development, those are steps that both have an effect on Jordan and will be affected by Jordan.

[Reporter] Did the issue of the boycott of Israel come up today?

[Ross] Yes. We have, you know that's an issue, from our standpoint, restrictions on economic activities are inconsistent with trying to begin to develop economic activities and also trying to foster economic development itself.

[Al-'Anani] One last question.

[Reporter] Mr. Ross, would you characterize the shuttle diplomacy that has been conducted since the Israel-PLO agreement as a kind of shift from the Madrid formula? Is there a consideration of revising the Madrid formula to focus more on bilateral talks or shuttle diplomacy that is taking place right now?

[Ross] Well, I think you have to put the Madrid formula in context. The Madrid formula launched direct bilateral and multilateral negotiations. Obviously, from our standpoint, the achievement of the Israeli-PLO agreement in many respects was one of the first important accomplishments of the Madrid formula. The Jordanian-Israeli agreement on a common agenda is another important product of it. Negotiations, you know, are the way to solve the problem and as far as we are concerned, we see them taking place in Washington. We see our efforts out here in the region as contributing to it. The negotiations that are going on between the Israelis and the Palestinians that resumed today in Taba contribute to it. The objective is a comprehensive peace settlement, and we are going to pursue all the means we can and all the avenues we can to try to achieve that objective.

[Reporter] Do you favor parallel secret talks between Syria and Israel to sidestep the deadlock on the bilateral track?

[Ross] You know, our approach is to favor whatever is going to work to make progress; and the approach, the format, the mechanism for each of these bilateral negotiations may have to be tailored to that particular track to determine what's the best way to make progress.

[Al-'Anani] I have a question here in Arabic that I would like to translate for you. It says: In case Syria refused a peace accord with Israel, what would be the response of the United States? Economic sanctions, or military option, or what?

[Ross] In case of what?

[Al-'Anani] In case Syrians did not come to an agreement with the Israelis?

[Ross] Well, you know, let me put it this way. We tend to focus on the positive, not the negative. We are committed to seeing progress. We are convinced that progress is possible. Exactly when it is going to take place

is hard to predict, but the fact that we think that it will take place, the fact that progress is something that we are all committed to, that's the reality. So, we are going to focus on the positive and not the negative. OK?

[Al-'Anani] Okay. Thank you.

British Foreign Office Official Arrives

JN1710093493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] William Ehrman, director of the Middle Eastern and North African Affairs Department at the British Foreign and Commomwealth Office, arrived in Amman yesterday evening, at the outset of a 7-day regional tour. This tour is part of the British Government's efforts concerning the Middle East peace.

In an arrival statement, the British official said that during his 2-day visit to Jordan, he will meet with several senior officials to discuss prospects for the peace process and get acquainted with Jordan's position on the means to achieve a breakthrough in the peace process.

He expressed the hope to meet with a number of Palestinian officials during his visit to Jordan to discuss developments of the Middle East peace process. The British official welcomed the breakthrough achieved in the peace process, particularly the signing of an agreement between the Israeli Government and the PLO. He expressed hope that a similar breakthrough will be achieved on other Arab-Israeli tracks.

The British official affirmed that the British Government will continue its political and economic support for all tracks of the peace process. He will visit the occupied West Bank and meet with several Palestinian officials, particularly those concerned with development.

Meets With al-'Anani

JN1710181293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Report by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab]

[Text] The Middle East has begun to witness wide and extensive activities that accelerate the peace process and make substantial progress on all tracks.

A ranking British Foreign Office official has begun a tour of the region with a visit to Jordan. He met with Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of state for cabinet affairs. Al-'Anani emphasized to him the Jordanian viewpoint on Jordanian-Palestinian economic relations, especially during the self-rule stage.

Dr. al-'Anani explained the Jordanian position on a number of primary points relating to future trade between Jordan and Palestine.

On the opening of Jordanian bank branches in the occupied West Bank, Dr. al-'Anani emphasized that Jordan does not object to the opening of Jordanian bank branches there, if they are supervised by the Central Bank of Jordan, in coordination with the relevant Palestinian quarters.

[Begin Ehrman recording in English] Britain's position is that we support a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region. And in that area, we would like to see progress on some of the other tracks of the peace negotiations, some of those that haven't made progress so far. We also, as a member of the European Community, are providing economic support to the peace process, and it is most important that that is regional economic support because, although the needs of the occupied territories are going to be great in the next year or two, we must also remember the needs of other countries in the region, who are intimately involved in the peace process, and without whom there cannot be any comprehensive and lasting settlement. [end recording]

Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, discussed peace process developments with the British official. Al-Hasan explained the firm and principled Jordanian role in the peace process—a role based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Al-Hasan hailed the role the EC is playing through its support for the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. He said it is hoped the EC will consider the burden Jordan is shouldering and what Jordan has offered for the cause of peace, especially because Jordan continues to shoulder much, despite its limited potentials.

These wide activities, which began today, seek to accelerate efforts and make substantial progress on the tracks. They also seek to assure the attendance of parties to the peace process in the upcoming negotiations in Washington, as well as deciding their date.

Dennis Ross, U.S. general coordinator for the peace process, may arrive in Amman next Tuesday [19 October]. He will visit the region in a tour that is apparently preceding a tour of the region by the U.S. secretary of state.

Al-'Anani Comments on Talks

JN1710202793 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Head of the Near East and North Africa Department at the British Foreign Office William Ehrman held talks with Jordanian officials on peace developments following the signing of the Israeli-PLO peace accord and the Jordanian-Israeli agenda.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr. Jawad al-'Anani discussed with the British official Jordan's economic relations in the next period of Palestinian self-rule.

Dr. al-'Anani said he believed Israel would benefit from the assistance pledged to the Palestinians and would treat the Palestinian economy as part of that of Israel.

Al-'Anani said Jordan is ready to allow banks to open their branches in the West Bank to serve the Palestinian economy. [passage omitted]

UN's Hansen Discusses Peace Process

JN1910205493 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 19 Oct 93

[From the "News at Ten"]

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali discussed developments of the Middle East peace process with visiting Assistant UN Secretary General Peter Hansen.

The prime minister and Mr. Hansen also discussed ways to speed up the peace process, as well as the role the United Nations could play in that regard.

Hansen, who is currently in Jordan as part of a Middle East tour, said the main goal for his mission is to ascertain the role of the United Nations in furthering the peace process.

[Begin recording] [Hansen] Well, the main goal for the mission is to visit the region, in which the peace process is now taking place, and to ascertain the role that the United Nations and the United Nations system can play in furthering the process. And Jordan, being an extremely important player in this context, it has been important for us to get the views of the Jordanian authorities on the various issues we are dealing with and the various options for international action that are under discussion.

[Reporter Maha al-Sha'ir] In what areas do you plan to concentrate your efforts on? Is it the refugees?

[Hansen] Well, the multilateral process under the Madrid conference has set up a whole series of groups, which are dealing with issues, such as refugees. There was just a meeting in Tunis, such as water resources, such as regional development, such as training and manpower, and also the water resources issues, and arms control issues. All these issues are being dealt with in the multilateral process. And on these issues are areas in which the United Nations and the United Nations system has a competence and an interest, and they are part in the process. And we will, in addition to that, do our best to give direct assistance to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza territories. And I have been interested to hear what ideas Jordanian authorities had about these activities. [end recording]

Hizballah Group Visits UK, Meets Tunisia's Ghannouchi

NC1610092693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] As part of a European tour, a Hizballah delegation visited the United Kingdom and held a series of meetings with political and news media figures. The delegation met foreign relations experts from the UK-Arab Friendship Society and discussed recent regional developments and Hizballah's position on the Gaza- Jericho agreement.

Deputy Hajj Muhammad al-Barjawi visited the UK Refugees Council and met with its Middle East official. The two men discussed refugee problems, the cause of their displacement, and the negative role of the Zionist entity in this matter.

The delegation also met the leader of the Islamic Ennahda Movement, Shaykh Rached Ghannouchi. The latter briefed the delegation on the political and social conditions in Arab Maghreb countries, particularly Tunisia, and hailed Hizballah's policies and the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon. Developments in Lebanon, the Middle East negotiations, and the future role of resistance, the intifadah, and Islam in the region were also discussed. The two sides expressed desire for closer cooperation to serve the Islamic cause and further Islamic unity.

Islamic Leader Comments on Somali Situation

NC0810185793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Oct 93

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of Lebanon's Islamic Unification Movement [IUM], has described the U.S. military intervention in Somalia as political idiocy. In his Friday sermon during prayers held in Tripoli, north Lebanon, today, Shaykh Sha'ban praised the Somali Muslim people's steadfastness against the U.S. intervention.

He remarked: The Somali people have discredited the myth of U.S. invincibility.

In another part of his sermon, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban condemned Yasir 'Arafat's bargaining with the Zionist enemy, declaring: By signing the Gaza-Jericho agreement, 'Arafat has accepted the role of defending Zionist interests. He is now preparing to slaughter the Islamists.

Shaykh Sha'ban added: Anyone who backs 'Arafat or even humors him will be his associate in the crime of selling off Palestine.

In conclusion, the leader of the Islamic Unification Movement emphasized the need to extend full support for the Islamic intifadah in occupied Palestine, the resistance forces in south Lebanon, and the Muslim Somali people's struggle. He called for forming a broad-based Islamic front in Asia and Africa to confront U.S. and Zionist conspiracies.

Saudi Fund Provides Loans for University, Roads

NC2110075393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Lebanon's Development and Reconstruction Council [DRC] and the Saudi Development Fund [SDF] signed two agreements at the DRC offices this afternoon, under which the SDF will provide the Lebanese Government with loans to finance plans to renovate the Lebanese University and improve Beirut roads. DRC Director al-Fadl Shalaq and SDF official Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Muhammad al-Turki signed the agreements.

Al-Turki pointed out that the loans, which total $33 million, will be used to finance 11 projects in Lebanon. The first loan of approximately $15 million will be used to renovate the buildings of the Lebanese University and buy new equipment. The second loan of $18 million will be used to improve roads at the entrances to Beirut and replan the city's main intersections.

Al-Turki said that the loans are part of Saudi Arabia's efforts to help Lebanon restore its regional and international status.

Resistance Member Killed in Attack in South

NC2010180693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Resistance in the south has announced that one of its members has been killed in a joint attack by Hizballah and the Amal Movement on Bra'shit Hill in the central sector of the border strip. Eyewitnesses said Israeli forces had planted mines around the Bra'shit position to prevent the resistance from infiltrating the post.

Elsewhere in Tyre, security sources said five people, relatives of South Lebanese Army [SLA] deserters, were arrested in the border strip yesterday. The same sources added that about 30 SLA personnel arrested three women and two men in their homes in al- Tayyibah and Dayr Siryan and took them to an unknown destination. According to these sources, five men—fathers of deserted soldiers—were expelled from the border strip two days ago.

Israel Releases 3 'Kidnapped' Fishermen

NC2110071193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Israel last night released three Lebanese fishermen it kidnapped two days ago off al-Sarafand harbor. A Lebanese military source said the fishermen were released 15 hours after Israeli frogmen blew up three fishing boats moored at the harbor.

U.S. Envoy Ross Arrives in Damascus

JN2110143093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Dennis Ross, the U.S. Middle East peace talks coordinator, arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Syrian ambassador to Washington, and the U.S. ambassador to Damascus.

In a statement to a correspondent for SANA, Mr. Ross said: Here in Syria, on this important leg of our tour, we say again that we are committed to doing whatever we can to achieve progress on the Syrian-Israeli track. There are complicated issues that require extensive efforts from us. Mr. Ross added that he is looking forward to meeting with Syrian officials and discussing those issues with them.

'No One Expects Much' From Visit

JN2010101193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH today asserts that Israel has been seeking to obstruct the peace process since it was first launched in Madrid. Its purpose is twofold: Either keeping Arab territory and dragging the Arabs into signing separate treaties that recognize occupation, or destroying this process once it is close to getting Israel to comply with international resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East.

AL-BA'TH notes that Syria is fully aware of Israel's attempts and purposes, saying that peace and occupation are irreconcilable, and that defective peace means surrender.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria's chief concern has always been to safeguard pan-Arab rights and not to relinquish one iota of them. The paper says the rabid propaganda campaign launched by Israel and its agents against Syria is not strange at all. The Rabin government is not any different from the Shamir government. Both want to impose an illusory peace, which Syria always rejects.

The paper explains that what attracts attention is the escalation of this hostile campaign and the fact that it coincides with fresh U.S. diplomatic activity in the region to advance the peace process, especially since Israel has once again started to play the tune of secret negotiations, as part of its many deceptive proposals.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Clarity and openness are among the most important characteristics of the approach of al-Asad's Syria. Syria's policy is clear and open for the people and the nation, and there is no room for secrets, as far as regional and international policy is concerned. Syria's policy seeks justice and calls for full peace that restores rights in full.

TISHRIN says: For the second time in as many days, Yitzhaq Rabin has stated, before his talks with Dennis Ross, scheduled for today, that the Madrid conference formula is useless, and has called for changing it. He also said that the Madrid framework, which stipulates that the delegations should meet in the same place for a specific period, would not yield any results and would not lead to an Arab-Israeli agreement. Rabin added that the timeframe for the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord is not enough. Rabin thinks, moreover, that Israel should hold direct, separate negotiations with Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan.

TISHRIN says that Rabin's reservations about the Madrid formula are not new. However, announcing them when the United States is making intensive efforts to hold a 12th round of the Washington talks is reminiscent of Israel's attempts to obstruct the Washington talks, because they are the result of the Madrid conference and its formula.

The paper adds: The truth is that Israel is not against the Madrid formula, but against the requirements and major elements for peace. Israel wants to evade these requirements and does not want to be committed to the real, serious foundations of peace. Israel also seeks direct, separate talks with each Arab party on its own. It thinks that such talks would achieve absolute Arab recognition without responding to the principle of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Israel also does not want a comprehensive peace, since a comprehensive peace would destroy its proposals of partial solutions, separate deals, and transitional settlements.

TISHRIN asserts that Israel wants to transform the phased settlement into a permanent settlement; that is, it wants to buy time, prolong the negotiating process, and manipulate its tracks to keep Arab territories and impose its conditions on the Arab parties, after having created a rift between them in the interest of its fait accompli policy.

TISHRIN concludes: Syria is well aware of Israel's objectives and intentions and calls for exposing them, because they are the antithesis of just and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH thinks that despite the renewed commitments and affirmations by the Clinton administration to achieve a just peace, comprehensive solution, and progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, no one expects much out of the tour of Dennis Ross, U.S. general coordinator for peace talks. Nor is it expected to achieve results that would break the deadlock in the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH points out that Ross's mission, specifically in Israel, will apparently face many obstacles that

have caused the failure of the peace process and the faltering of its talks for two years.

AL-THAWRAH notes the statements made by the Israeli Government on the tour of the U.S. envoy, which were characterized by defiance and hostility to peace and its requirements, attacking Syria and its stance. This implies an attempt to confiscate and circumvent the U.S. diplomatic activity, emptying its new efforts of any substance.

AL-THAWRAH asserts that Rabin's first priority is implementing the agreement with the PLO. Rabin stubbornly sticks to occupation, not relinquishing Jerusalem, and refusing to withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon. In addition, his foreign minister says he will not offer Syria any gift without a price. These statements obstruct the mission of the U.S. envoy and do not pave the way for convening a new round of the peace talks.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: The Tel Aviv rulers forget—in fact, deliberately ignore—that it is not a matter of exchanging gifts. It is a question of occupation that must be removed, and international resolutions that must be implemented in full in the Golan, as well as in southern Lebanon and the occupied Arab territories. The question also involves usurped rights that should be returned in full. This is the only way to achieve peace.

Israel Trying To 'Sabotage' Madrid Formula

JN2010163293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Israel is no longer hiding its interest in destroying the Madrid formula for achieving peace in the Middle East. After public maneuvering for two years in Washington in order to prove the futility of this formula and after secretly circumventing it in Oslo, Israel is now publicly announcing that its aim is to abandon this formula for good. Israel wants to get rid of this formula in form and substance. Even though it is not yet revealing its intentions regarding substance, Israel is claiming that the formula, which was approved in Madrid, is no longer valid, especially after the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

This shows to a large extent that the Gaza-Jericho agreement was an objective in itself in order to destroy this formula and replace it with the formula of partial and separate solutions according to the Israeli concept. The Gaza-Jericho agreement was not a step toward putting the other tracks of ongoing talks in Washington on the road to achieving a comprehensive and just peace.

In the beginning, Israel tried to cover up its intentions to sabotage the Madrid formula by claiming that it needs a certain amount of time to implement the Gaza-Jericho agreement, which requires halting action on the other tracks of talks. However, this justification did not deceive anyone. Moreover, it does not seem to have convinced the cosponsors of the peace process, especially the United States, whose view on this issue is similar to the Syrian view. It does not seem that Israel convinced the peace cosponsors of the need to discontinue the peace process on the other tracks.

When Israel saw its inability to confront the public trend toward activating the peace process, especially after the U.S. cosponsor consistently reaffirmed its commitment to this issue, it then sought to empty any resumption of the Washington bilaterals of substance regarding the Syrian and Lebanese track, in particular. The Syrian stand aborted this effort when, through its foreign minister, Syria announced that it will not attend any round that will not lead to progress in the negotiations. This Syrian stand proceeds from a full awareness that Syrian and Lebanese participation in such a bogus round will be nothing more than a cover for the formula of partial and separate solutions that Israel is trying to impose after the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Israel failed in its attempts to make the resumption of the Washington bilaterals—based on the Madrid formula—void of any substance. This failure caused Israel to reveal its true intentions toward the Madrid formula, which it accepted reluctantly from the beginning, and to publicly announce the need to foil this formula.

The Syrian position was behind exposing Israel's maneuvers and causing it to reveal its stand toward the Madrid formula. Hence, it is natural to witness all these Israeli assaults on Syria by ranking Israeli officials who level accusations and cast doubts on Syria's true intentions for peace. Israel's attempt to empty any resumption of the Washington bilaterals of substance and the Syrian rejection of this attempt was accompanied by quick Israeli attempts to give the impression that continuing the negotiations is possible without Syria.

We recall statements by the Israeli prime minister and his foreign minister on the need not to exaggerate Syria's role and its participation. We also recall their failed efforts, through which they thought they could embarrass the Syrian stand, calling for official public meetings on a high level, secret meetings, or negotiations outside the framework of the Washington bilaterals.

Now that all these Israeli maneuvers have failed, the Israeli stand, which calls for the destruction of the Madrid formula before U.S. envoy Dennis Ross's tour, is aimed at sabotaging any practical and positive results that this envoy could achieve in order to push the peace process forward.

We do not think that Washington—which has always reaffirmed its commitment to the Madrid formula, the bases of this formula, and the framework of the negotiations—could be unaware of the purpose of the Israeli attempt to abandon the Madrid formula and the dangers such a call poses to a comprehensive and just peace in the region.

The formula of partial and separate solutions, like the Gaza-Jericho agreement, may serve Israel's interests, but it will not serve the interests of the region in general or

the interests of peace in particular. Adherence to the Madrid formula means adherence to the formula of a comprehensive and just peace based on the relevant UN resolutions and the land-for-peace equation. Syria will continue to adhere to this formula because—as the world agreed when it adopted this formula and launched it in Madrid—it is the most suitable formula to achieve a peace that can survive and endure.

Vice President Meets PFLP-GC's Jibril

JN2010185293 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] A delegation from the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], headed by front Secretary General Ahmad Jibril, met today with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. The PFLP-GC delegation included Talal Naji, Fadl Shururu, and 'Umar Shihabi.

Talks during the meeting centered on the most important political developments, the dangers of the Rabin-'Arafat agreement, the situation in the occupied territories, and the glorious popular Palestinian intifadah. They also exchanged views on the current Palestinian and Arab situation.

The PFLP-GC delegation informed Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al- Halim Khaddam of the Front's confidence in the positions of Syria and its leadership, headed by President Hafiz al-Asad, who maintains commendable pan-Arab positions and preserves pan-Arab rights in light of the close ties between Syria and Palestine—ties that rise above transitory developments.

Foreign Minister Returns From Saudi Arabia

JN2010202893 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1750 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Damascus, 20 Oct (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the head of the Syrian delegation to the meetings of the joint Syrian-Saudi Committee, returned to Damascus this evening. He was accompanied by Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, Minister of Education Ghassan al-Halabi, Minister of Finance Dr. Khalid al-Mahayini, and the technical delegation who attended the Syrian-Saudi joint committee's meetings held 19 and 20 October. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Rabbani Returns to Kabul From Gulf Tour

LD2010212993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1715 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, who paid friendly and official visits to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates at the invitation of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques; Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait; and Shaykh Zayid bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, returned to Kabul this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani held a series of important and valuable talks with the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the UAE during his 11-day trip. Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani's trip occurred at a time when Afghanistan greatly needs the economic and political aid of fraternal countries for its reconstruction.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, the esteemed president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan said: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and other Islamic countries are among those countries which gave selfless fraternal assistance to the mojahedin of Afghanistan during their 14-year jehad against the communists. Now those countries have first place on the list of countries donating assistance for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and the people of Afghanistan are grateful for this fraternal cooperation.

Indonesia Promises Help in Reconstruction

LD2010083793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] The Indonesian Government has expressed readiness to help with the reconstruction of Afghanistan in reviving rivers and canals, training technical personnel at the Ministry of Water and Electricity, and other necessary areas. This was stated in a meeting between Water and Electricity Minister Seyyed Mohammed Ayub and Indonesian Ambassador Havid Abdulgani. The esteemed minister of water and electricity thanked the ambassador for Indonesia's promise of active participation in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

World Community Help Urged on Water Sharing Problem

BK2010130393 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has called upon the international community to play an active role in helping Bangladesh resolve the Ganges water dispute with India. In an interview with NEWSWEEK, the prime minister said that her government is willing to continue the dialogue with India for an early settlement of this problem. She alleged that Bangladesh is not getting any positive response from India in this regard. The prime minister said that for this reason the Bangladesh Government feels that the attention of the world community should be drawn to the problem. She said this problem has severely affected the environment of Bangladesh and has had an adverse impact on the livelihood of a vast majority of people of this country. The prime minister asked: Isn't it an instance of human rights violation? The prime minister said that Bangladesh will welcome any move taken by the global community for resolving this dispute with India with a view to protecting the environment and human rights.

The prime minister stated that this problem is a matter of life and death for Bangladesh. She said that due to scarcity of water the crops are becoming dry and the northern region of the country is being converted into a desert. The prime minister added that the rivers of the country are also becoming dry due to the stoppage in the flow of water from the upper reaches of the Ganges. She said in the southern region of the country, saline water is entering the rivers as a result of which the salinity of the land is increasing. The prime minister said this is destroying the country's Sundarban forest.

It may be mentioned that while addressing the 48th session of the UN General Assembly, the prime minister referred to the initiative taken by Bangladesh for resolving the water sharing issue with India. She informed the world community that till now it has not been possible to reach any agreement with India regarding the sharing of the waters of the common rivers nor has any progress been made in this regard. The prime minister said that this problem is nothing new for the world community. In 1976, the UN General Assembly agreed to take up for discussion the situation arising out of the unilateral withdrawal of the waters of the River Ganges at Farakka [barrage built by India] by India. This shows that the United Nations has given recognition to the Farakka problem. On 26 November 1976, the special political committee of the UN General Assembly adopted a six-point recommendation for the resolution of this problem. This indicates that since then the United Nations is involved in resolving this problem. However, unfortunately till now no progress has been made in this regard.

For the past two decades negotiations have continued with India on resolving the Ganges water issue, but India has not taken any positive step in this direction. Rather, the situation is gradually deteriorating. India is continuing with its plans to unilaterally withdraw the waters of the 54 common rivers, including that of the River Ganges. The Ganges is an international river. The Indian Government did not hold any talks with the erstwhile government of Bangladesh before starting the construction of a barrage [Farakka barrage] over the River Ganges. India did not bother to settle the issue of the sharing of the Ganges

waters prior to the construction of this barrage. In 1974, India unilaterally commissioned the Farakka barrage and since then the problem has been aggravated.

During the last dry season, the flow of water in the Padma River of Bangladesh reached its lowest level. Another dry season is coming soon. Bangladesh wants its legitimate share of the waters of the River Ganges before the next dry season. However, India still continues with its stubborn attitude. We feel that it is the moral responsibility of the world community to resolve the problem which has been created by India, as a result of which several hundred thousand Bangladeshis are facing hardships. Those who champion the cause of human rights and the environment should take the lead in resolving this problem.

Two Aid Agreements Signed With United Kingdom

BK2010130493 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1230 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Bangladesh is to receive more than 610 million taka from the United Kingdom under two agreements signed in Dhaka today. The fund will be provided as commodity aid and assistance for the Bangladesh Police. The agreements were signed by British High Commissioner Peter Fowler and Mohammad Sirajul Islam, joint secretary of the Economic Relations Department.

India

Siege Around Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar Continues

Governor: Forces Will Not Enter Shrine

BK2010125893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has said that the occupation of the Hazratbal Shrine by armed militants is indicative of the frustration of the militants and their mentors across the border caused by continuous pressure from the security forces. In a radio broadcast today, the governor said that the nefarious designs of the militants will be frustrated by the security forces and they will not be allowed to desecrate the holy shrine. The governor made it clear that the security forces will not enter the shrine. He hoped that the militants will soon realize the motives of Pakistan, which is using them for its interest.

Meanwhile, there has been no improvement in the situation arising out of the terrorists occupation of the Hazratbal Shrine. Efforts are on to persuade the militants to surrender.

General Interviewed on Situation

BK2010165893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] In Srinagar, security forces are continuing their efforts to persuade the militants holed up inside the shrine to surrender. The security forces are making repeated announcements over loudspeakers for the release of women, children, and sick. However, there is no response from the militants. Here is a report from our Srinagar correspondent, Ajit Singh:

[Begin Singh recording] I visited the Hazratbal shrine area again today. It was on the second day that parents of some of the children trapped inside the shrine made a plea to the militants on the mike to allow their children to come out, but it was in vain. Corps Commander Lieutenant General S. Padmanadan told that a stick grenade was recovered by the security forces from the inner side of the outer wall of the shrine complex today. There has been no firing for the last three days, but armed militants continue to man positions atop the high minaret and four or five other points in the shrine complex. Gen. Padmanadan said the security forces do not want to enter the shrine and are prepared to wait till the militants surrender themselves. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the corps commander, Lt. Gen. S. Padmanadan, told newsmen that a stick grenade was recovered by the security forces from the inner side of the wall of the shrine. In an interview with our correspondent, Lt. Gen. Padmanadan said:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Gen. Padmanadan, for the last five days that the army has been around the Hazratbal shrine. How have been the things in last 24 hours?

[Padmanadan] There has been increased vigilance on the part of the militants, particularly last night, when they could be seen patrolling virtually on the terrace. But apart from that, there has been no overt military action by them or armed action by them. There has been no incident of firing. Two women were permitted yesterday to meet individually two men from inside. That meeting took place between 1600 and 1700 last evening. Nothing came out of it. Apparently the women appealed to the militants that their children who were stuck up inside the holy shrine should be released. The two men refused to accede to their request and said that even if they don't understand the meaning of azadi [independence] and they are too young, doesn't matter; they should remain here. The women were then allowed to go back. This morning, in the place where the meeting took place, we found a stick grenade, which perhaps one of them had dropped. That has since been removed.

[Correspondent] How is the shrine at this moment?

[Padmanadan] Intact. Absolutely beautiful and I am quite certain that you would have admired many views of it. [end recording]

The curfew was relaxed for two hours in Khamyar and Rainabari police station areas this morning. No untoward incident has been reported.

The union tourism minister, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, has expressed the hope that right sense will prevail on the militants holed up in the Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar and they will vacate it. Talking to newspersons in Darjeeling, he said they should not make religious place a battlefield.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] general secretary, Mr. Arif Beg, today asked the center to take stern steps to protect the Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar and flush out the militants. Mr. Beg, who is also the BJP's minority morcha's [front] president, told reporters in Hyderabad that his party is opposed to the use of places of worship by terrorists and militants.

Officials on Purpose of Troops' Deployment

BK2110033893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that its main aim in deploying security forces around the Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar is to ensure security of the shrine and the holy relic and the safety of innocent people inside the shrine. Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, the additional chief secretary, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, and the director general of the state police, Mr. Mohinder Sabharwal, described the militants inside the Hazratbal shrine as desecrators of the holy shrine and expressed concern over their continuing acts of [word indistinct]. They said public is not scared of the subversive elements despite high rumors circulated by them.

AIR [All India Radio] Srinagar correspondent Ajit Singh reports the security forces are on vigil outside the shrine and have been making appeals for release of women, children, and sick people held hostage by the militants. Precautionary curfew continues in seven of the 22 police station areas.

Troops Break Up Protests

BK2110042693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0348 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Srinagar, India, Oct 21 (AFP) - Indian security forces used teargas and batons here Thursday [21 October] to break up protests by hundreds of Muslims seeking an end to the six-day-old army siege of the Hazratbal mosque, police said.

The paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) fired several teargas shells and chased away slogan-shouting crowds which took to the streets in this summer capital of Kashmir at dawn, police sources said.

Some 300 came out of their homes defying a curfew at Nohatta district, and another 700 demonstrated in the nearby Safakadal area, witnesses said. At least three protestors were injured at Safakadal, the sources said.

No arrests were made, and the protestors, including women and children, dispersed chanting slogans like "We want freedom" when the border guards chased them.

Gun-toting Muslim guerrillas fighting for the secession of Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, took over the lakeside Hazratbal late Friday, triggering an unprecedented siege by Indian security forces.

The siege has sparked countless protest demonstrations here.

Meanwhile, a top Kashmiri official said the administration was planning to send food for the first time since Friday to the Hazratbal shrine, ringed by an estimated 10,000 troops and paramilitary forces.

"There is a proposal to give food to those holed up in the shrine," said Wajahat Habibullah, putting their number at 175-200, including nearly 40 masked Muslim guerrillas.

Indian officials say 14 children and at least six women are also inside the mosque, Kashmir's holiest Islamic shrine which houses a singed hair from the beard of Prophet Mohammed.

"But a final decision will be taken later today," said Habibullah, who has been mediating with the gunmen.

The militants and mediators brought in by the government have demanded that food be sent into the mosque. Troops have cut off power and water to the shrine since the siege began. Those inside say food is running out.

Police sources said the Kashmir administration will also clamp a curfew throughout the troubled Kashmir valley from midnight Thursday to foil a massive march to the Hazratbal shrine on Friday.

Muslim leaders have called upon the people to defy curfew and march to the Hazratbal after Friday prayers in mosques in Srinagar, the urban hub of a bloody Muslim separatist campaign in Kashmir.

Indian army officials say they want the gunmen in the mosque to surrender.

Some 7,000 people have died since 1989 in the Kashmiri separatist campaign.

One Killed in Rainabari

BK2110081493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] In Srinagar, negotiations between the authorities and the militants occupying the Hazratbal shrine are being held with the help of prominent citizens. Security forces have been making announcements over the mike for the release of their wards. AIR [All India Radio] Srinagar correspondent Ajit Singh reports that curfew has been relaxed in Khaniar and Nauhatta police station areas for two hours since 0700 this morning. Yesterday, some small processions were taken out in Srinagar city. One person was killed in Rainabari area when some

miscreants tried to snatch a rifle from a BSF [Border Security Force] jawan [soldier] during the curfew relaxation period. A few arrests were also made.

'Militants' Give 'Encouraging Signs'

BK2110085993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] In Srinagar, negotiations between the authorities and the militants occupying the Hazratbal shrine are being held with the help of prominent citizens. Security forces have been making announcements over the microphones for the release of women, children, and sick people held inside the shrine. Parents of some of the children have also been appealing to the militants for the release of their wards.

Meanwhile, in Srinagar, the militants inside the Hazratbal shrine have given some encouraging signs of resolving the crisis. AIR Srinagar correspondent, quoting Additional Chief Secretary, Home, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, says the government has decided to supply food for the persons trapped inside the shrine.

Islamabad TV Updates Events

BK2110143393 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, thousands of people today defied a curfew and held demonstrations against the siege of Hazratbal Shrine by the Indian troops. Several people were injured when Indian troops resorted to baton charge and fired tear gas to disperse the protesters who were marching toward the shrine. Over 100 people were rounded up during the Indian action.

The siege of the shrine continues for the sixth day today. Indian troops encircling the shrine refused to allow two Muslim advocates to meet the people holed up in the shrine. Permission for entry was given to them by the high court. The Muslim Awqaf [Endowment] Trust had also filed a similar appeal in the high court of the held valley. No food has been allowed into the Hazratbal Shrine, to which the water and power supply remains cut off.

Another report says additional troops have been deployed in various parts of Srinagar to block the massive protest demonstrations tomorrow.

Meanwhile, clashes between mojahedin and Indian troops continue across the valley. Two youths were shot dead by the occupation forces in the Panzila village of Baramula District. Another youth was killed in detention in the same district. Six Indian troops were injured when mojahedin threw hand grenades on their vehicle in (Tral).

Extradition Proceedings Begun for Kashmir Leader

BK2110092393 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] A Belgian court has given the Indian Government 21 days' time to elaborate on the charges against the so-called Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front chief, Mr. Amanullah Khan. Mr. Khan was arrested in Brussels on Monday [18 October]. Meanwhile, the Belgian Government has recalled its ambassador to Pakistan. The Foreign Ministry, in a statement issued in Brussels, said that the ambassador, Mr. (Ernest Cave), has been recalled for having committed a serious professional error in issuing a 15-day visa to Mr. Khan in Islamabad on 4 October. A ministry spokesman said that Mr. Khan's name has been on the ineligible list for visas. He said the embassy did not make proper inquiry before issuing the visa to Mr. Khan. Mr. Khan was in the Belgian capital at the invitation of the British Socialist members of the European Parliament to take part in a two-day debate on the Kashmir situation.

Meanwhile, the Indian Government has commenced extradition proceedings against Amanullah Khan to India. Mr. Khan will be made to stand trial for the murder of the former director of Srinagar Doordarshan [television], Mr. (Lasa Kaul), and four Indian Air Force officers.

Commentary Criticizes European Socialists

BK1910124993 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Commentary by M.K. Dar, diplomatic editor of the HINDUSTAN TIMES]

[Text] The Socialist Group in the European Parliament has not brought a solution of the Kashmir problem a step nearer by organizing a roundtable on the subject at Brussels. In fact, the more third parties meddle in India's internal affairs and give tacit encouragement to Pakistan to threaten India's integrity and cohesion, the greater is the fallout in terms of unrest and encouragement to terrorism, particularly in the state-sponsored variety which the entire world is trying to combat. The Socialist Group insists it is not trying to internationalize the Kashmir issue, but is concerned that purely bilateral contacts between India and Pakistan have failed to make any significant progress toward finding a solution to the issue. It is also convinced that no effort has been made in the past 40 years to consult the people of Kashmir belonging to various ethnic and linguistic groups. However well meaning the organizers of the roundtable might be, the conclusion is inescapable that they too are fallen prey to Pakistan's insidious propaganda for reasons best known to them.

India is committed to discuss Kashmir with Pakistan bilaterally as envisaged in the Simla Agreement and has said so repeatedly. But India is not willing to negotiate at the point of gun, particularly when Pakistan is showing signs of unprecedented aggressiveness by proclaiming from the housetops that it has acquired nuclear capability. The Socialist Group has ignored that even according to the finding of the United Nations, Pakistan committed aggression on Kashmir and failed to withdraw its forces which the UN had asked it to do. It appears, therefore, that those who believe in the rule of

law, democracy, and noninterference in the internal affairs of other states have chosen to ignore the fact of Pakistan's continuing aggression in Kashmir, it's having become an international outlaw by fuelling a proxy war against India in Punjab and Kashmir, and harboring territorial designs against it.

A sinister attempt is also sought to be made to arrive at a solution taking into account linguistic and sectarian factors. This was an indirect way of saying that the state should be parceled out into ethnic and religious blocks and the future of each such blocks be settled on the basis of religious affinities. This was an attempt to subvert the very basis of the democratic and secular Indian state. It is conveniently forgotten that at least 50 times more Muslims live in the rest of India than in the state of Kashmir. It is too late in the day for the European socialists or the activists among them to suggest that India forsake its secular identity and be classified as a narrow-mined and bigoted religious state.

The Indian state has withstood repeated onslaughts on its secular democratic character and will continue to do so with all the determination, will and resources at its command. If the European socialists are sincere in lowering tension in this part of the world, the first things they ought to do is to ensure that Pakistan stops sponsoring terrorists to destabilize India, that it creates an atmosphere of peace and amity free of communal hatred, and learns to live with India as a well-meaning and peace-loving neighbor. Democratic and secular-minded people all over the world expect that the hotheads within the Pakistan Army cease to become international outlaws and exporters of drugs and terrorism as a recent CIA report has revealed.

Pakistan is trying to make the world believe that having gobbled up a part of Kashmir, it now has the right to annex the rest of it. The people in both parts of Kashmir have no illusions about Pakistan's democratic credentials or respect for human rights. Several Pakistan and Pakistan-based Kashmiri organizations have now come out openly against Pakistan's authoritarian and objectionable behavior towards the people who have been living in servitude in the part occupied by it for over 40 years. One of the participants, Mr. Afzal Khan Tahir, of the Rawalpindi-based Jammu and Kashmir People's National Party said: In our opinion, Pakistan is responsible for the present misery of the people of Kashmir. Its policy is to extend theocratic sway over Kashmir against the people's will. Plebiscite is not the solution to the problem. Pakistan has occupied Indian territory and there has been armed resistance to its occupation. The Socialist parliamentarians are well advised against striking moralist postures or ignoring the realities of the situation. Their first responsibility is to tame the international outlaw that Pakistan has become before theorizing about how to India-Pakistan differences.

UN Delegate Charges Pakistan With Sponsoring Subversion

BK2010081393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] India has charged Pakistan with carrying out a comprehensive ethnic cleansing of minorities and practising constitutional and legal apartheid against them. Speaking at the United Nations yesterday, the Indian delegate, Mr. E. Ahmad, explained the constitutional and legal safeguard and protection which all minorities enjoy in India. Mr. Ahmad stressed that Pakistan is sponsoring terrorism and subversion in India. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in his message to the new Pakistani prime minister, Mr. Benazir Bhutto, has suggested for a comprehensive dialogue to be initiated as early as possible, he added.

Akali Leaders Held in Punjab for Plans To Disturb Peace

BK2110052293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] The Punjab government has detained 15 Akali leaders last night from various places in apprehension of breach of peace in view of their proposed march to Delhi from the 1st of next month. They included Mr. Gurcharan Singh Tohra, Mr. Prakash Singh Badal, Mr. Surjit Singh Barnala, and Mr. Balvinder Singh Talwandi. An official spokesman told our Chandigarh correspondent that various Akali factions are now planning to disturb the hard- earned peace under the garb of religious marches. The spokesman also said that nobody will be allowed to misuse religion for political gains.

Congress-I Announces Manifesto for Local Elections

BK1910162093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] The Congress-I manifesto for the assembly elections in five states and Delhi promises stability of government and development. It pledges to maintain communal harmony and give equal respect to all religions. The 31-page manifesto highlights the achievements of the Narasimha Rao government, particularly the revival of the economy. It comes down heavily on the opposition parties for allegedly exploiting religion and caste for political ends. The manifesto blames the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] and BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] for the demolition of the structure in Ayodhya. It alleges the combine resorted to this fearing that the solution which was in sight at that time might deprive its political card. The Congress-I said it is now certain that the temple and the mosque will be built soon.

On reservations for other backward classes, the manifesto said the Mandal Commission report has been implemented through persuasion and discussion.

Criticizing the performance of the former BJP governments, the Congress-I manifesto alleges that the development process received a setback in the four states.

It has listed 18 priorities for time-bound implementation. These, among others, include special employment plans and social security for workers in the unorganized sector. The other poll promises of Congress-I include special attention to the concerns of minorities, women, and weaker sections, and decentralization of power for gram swaraj [village self-rule].

After releasing the manifesto, the Congress-I president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, said if the momentum of development slackens it will be difficult to restore it for a developing country. Answering a question, he said the coming assembly elections cannot be perceived as a referendum on the performance of his government.

Iran

German Businessman To Be Released

LD2110131993 Hamburg DPA in German 1207 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—The government in Tehran announced on Thursday [21 October] that the German businessman Gerhard Bachmann, who has been in detention for about two weeks, is to be released. Hoseyn Musavian, Iranian ambassador to Bonn, told State Secretary Dieter Kastrup, that the German will soon be released, Foreign Office spokesman Michael Gerdts announced in Bonn.

The 56-year-old Bachman, who is the representative in Tehran of the engineering concern MAN, was detained on accusations of bribery and espionage, in addition to unauthorized contacts with members of the army. The German Government has made several representations on this matter and threatened Tehran with consequences relating to bilateral relations if Bachman, who is chairman of the German-Iranian Chamber of Commerce, is not released.

Intelligence Minister's Visit to FRG Viewed

NC2110102493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: Following the visit to Germany by 'Ali Fallahian, Iran's minister of intelligence and the espionage network, and his meeting with German officials, Britain and United States expressed their concern and dissatisfaction, in one way or another, on the meeting and talks he held with German officials. They described this step by the Germans as contrary to some of the principles and conditions that they had previously agreed on in relation with the clerical regime.

In a bid to show that Germany has not gone beyond the framework of former agreements with European countries, a German spokesman stated that the German discussions with Fallahian concerned matters that are not contrary to the EEC agreements of last year. Of course, the clerical regime too had previously announced that the meeting and discussions were aimed at exchanging views and at cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

If we disregard the true objective behind these discussions and meeting, a look at both what the German officials said when they claimed that their discussions were on humanitarian issues, and what the clerical regime said when it stated that the discussions were on ways to fight terrorism, show how ridiculous these claims are, since neither the clerical regime nor its antihumanitarian nature have anything to do with humanitarianism and humanitarian issues. Also, confrontation and struggle against terrorism are not within the framework of the policy of this regime which is itself the main axis of terrorism and the center for the training of terrorists.

Moreover, what do humanitarian issues have to do with the duties and responsibilities of Fallahian, who is the intelligence minister, head of the regime's espionage network, and the engineer of terrorist acts? Thus, it is very clear that neither the German officials' statements on this visit was correct, nor are the clerical regime's allegations true.

The truth is that discussions were held between the German Government and the clerical regime on some issues, and some topics were discussed that the German Government dares not reveal. And the clerical regime deems the revelation of the contents of these talks to be not in its interests. This in itself shows how these talks and meetings are detached from humanitarian issues and how close they are to harming the rights, freedoms, and interests of people. The future will make all this clear and will reveal the truth.

Kurdish Party Urges German Action on Killing

NC2010144393 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Dear listeners: As you know, the trial of the assassins of our party's secretary general, the brave combatant Dr. Mohammad Sadeq Sharafkandi, and his associates will open in Berlin on 28 October 1993. The Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPK] sent a letter to Pierre Maurois, president of Socialist International; to the EEC foreign ministers; and to humanitarian organizations and individuals. The following is the text of the letter:

Mr. Pierre Maurois, esteemed president of Socialist International; esteemed foreign ministers of the European Economic Community; and humanitarian organizations and individuals. As you know, the trial of one Iranian and four Lebanese terrorists who are accused of assassinating DPK Secretary General Dr. Mohammad Sadeq Sharafkandi and three of his associates will open

on 28 October 1993 in Germany. Overt efforts have already started in a bid to divert the process of the trial and the punishment of the main perpetrators of this terrorist act. The arrest of a German businessman in Iran and the suspicious visit by 'Ali Fallahian, intelligence minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to Germany should be viewed within the framework of these efforts.

In view of the fact that neither the DPK nor Dr. Sharafkandi and the other victims of the 17 September 1992 assassination in Berlin had any differences with any of the Lebanese parties, organizations, or groups, it is clear that the plans for the assassination of the DPK leaders were drawn up by Iranian officials and were implemented with the direct cooperation of the Iranian regime's diplomat-terrorists in Germany. In view of the fact that the DPK's struggle to fulfill the human rights of the people of Iranian Kordestan is aimed at the entire leadership of the Islamic Republic, any effort to accuse one specific faction or individual of the leadership is tantamount to an effort to divert the issue from its main course. Therefore, in the name of justice and humanitarianism we call on you to serve democracy and human rights and use your influence and credibility with the German Government so that the trial of the true perpetrators of the Berlin incident will follow its normal course and so that the main culprit, who is no one but the Islamic Republic in its entirety, will be punished in the living conscience of humanity and be identified to the world.

We request that you accept our great respects.
[Signed] The DPK Political Bureau;
[Dated] 18 October 1993

In addition, on 15 October the DPK's office in Paris sent a letter to international figures and organizations, the text of which reads as follows:

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends: As you know, our party's Secretary General, Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi, and three of his associates were assassinated in Berlin on 17 September 1992 by terrorists of the Islamic Republic. Since then, we have tried to keep you informed of all reliable and confirmed information to clarify the nature of this savage act against Iran's democratic opposition, in general, and against our party, in particular.

The trial of the terrorists, who were arrested by German authorities, will open in Berlin on 28 October 1993. Our bitter past experience has shown that the Iranian regime uses all the levers of blackmail and pressure that it has in its hands to keep the truth from coming to light. Unfortunately, we should recall that the same applied during the so-called Vienna trial of the assassins of Dr. Qasemlu and his associates.

At a time when the implementation of the Declaration of Human Rights is one of the most important issues, the judicial independence of one of the West's democracies should not be diverted from its correct path by a fundamentalist-totalitarian system that is sowing the seeds of disorder everywhere.

On behalf of the Kurdish people in Iranian Kordestan, we call on all political, legal, and human rights parties and organizations, as well as individuals, to be alert so that justice is exercised during the trial. We are confident that in the process of establishing the new world order, state terrorism should be annihilated. This trial is an opportunity to achieve this objective and an opportunity for those who are struggling for the sake of justice and defending human rights.
[Signed] The DPK's Representation Office Abroad, Paris;
[Dated] 15 October 1993

Goals of Mitterrand's Regional Visit Viewed

NC2010102493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] French President Francois Mitterrand left Cairo for Paris last night, winding up his regional visit, which started in Saudi Arabia. Following the conference of francophone countries in Mauritius, he went to Yemen and Egypt. His visit is important because it is his first regional visit following the Persian Gulf war.

Apart from the visit to Yemen, which lasted 24 hours, his visits to Jeddah and Cairo lasted no more than two hours. Political observers believe that during these visits, Mitterrand pursued various immediate and long-term objectives, the first being to research the market for French arms. This objective was at the forefront, especially during Mitterrand's discussions with King Fahd in Jeddah. For some time, the rivalry among the Western countries in attracting Saudi Arabia's astronomical arms budget has led to various visits to the region by Western officials.

The other objective behind France's regional overtures at the highest diplomatic level is to revitalize Paris' lost political-economic influence in the Middle East. The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait resulted in an increased U.S. presence in the region, which harmed France's influence in some countries. France lost its traditional political-economic base in Iraq and in Lebanon to an extent. U.S. efforts to decrease France's influence in North Africa also resulted in rivalry between the two.

Now France is trying to revitalize its weakened influence by activating its foreign policy in the region. The pivot of the important policy that was chosen to open the corridor for France's return to the region is the effort to extend the compromise between Israel and the Arab governments in the region. The basis of the French policy is to walk the tightrope erected by the United States between Israel and the Arab countries.

In Mitterrand's talks with his regional hosts—King Fahd of Saudi Arabia; Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih; and Husni Mubarak, head of the Egyptian regime—during the past few days and in his talks with 'Arafat in Paris tomorrow, the recent 'Arafat-Tel Aviv accord

occupies a special place. France is the first European country to welcome 'Arafat after the signing of the PLO-Israeli accord.

Political observers doubt that France can find a way to the Middle East through this corridor and revitalize its past influence.

Khamene'i on Somalia, Military 'Shortcomings'

LD2010133093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1108 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, at a meeting with military commanders, instructors, and cadets at Imam Khomeyni Hoseyniyeh in Tehran on 20 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Take a look at the world's armed forces. You will see what the normal trend of armed forces in the world is. One place is Somalia. See what the various forces are doing there. They have entered the home of a poor nation with the pretext of giving them bread, but instead of bread they feed them bullets.

What justification do the American forces have for fighting with the people of Somalia? Does their conscience ever ask them, what are we doing in Somalia? Why do we, with false slogans, denigrate, crush, and beat up these poor people? Those forces still consider themselves enlightened and free, as it were. Vietnam is still not forgotten. That was one example; there are many others.

Other armed forces are the same. Where they should defend justice, there is not a sign of them. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, now that thousands of people are at risk because of the cold winter in that area, there is no sign of European, American, or other armed forces. So why in Somalia, and why in Vietnam? Where there is no sign of humanitarian goals, there they are present. Where there are humane goals they are not present. That is how the world's armed forces are.

Of course, I am not talking about the whole world, maybe there are some military forces in some corner of the world which are acceptable. Or in those set ups there may be some individuals who are acceptable. I am referring to what is in front of our eyes in the world.

Our armed forces are devoted to the truth, and to serving the people and divine goals, and goals that are accepted and approved by every fair individual in the world. These goals concern the safeguarding of one's homeland and its independence. Our armed forces want our country to be free from the enemy's control and the domination of the hegemonist powers. This is not a petty goal. What goal is more lofty and more sacred than this? This is what our armed forces are like.

You must do your best to improve the quality of these armed forces. Those of you who have studied in various courses owe your training to the armed forces. You must therefore devote all your abilities, as much as possible, to giving a better quality to these armed forces. Our armed forces are very good. Of course there are some shortcomings, which should be remedied. Since many decades ago, efforts have been made to prevent our armed forces to stand on their own two feet in terms of equipment. Today, praise be to God, the self-sufficiency jihad and technical departments are carrying out their tasks. You must continue these activities as much as you are able to. Even in organizational terms and in the area of military yardsticks, efforts were made to make us dependent. You must confront and stop such efforts.

Military know-how must be learned from everyone and everywhere, but this does not imply dependence. Look around you to grasp the nature of this land, these armed forces, and the nature of the duties that have been placed on your shoulders. Then carry out your tasks and arrange your organizations according to these natures. [passage omitted]

I pray that God may bestow his blessings on you and grant you ever-increasing success. God willing, in the future we will be witnessing your innovations, and your successes in scientific, cultural, and practical fields. God's peace and salutations be on you. [crowd chants in support]

IRGC Commander on Anti-Iranian 'Plot'

NC2110115893 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 Sep 93 p 7

["Exclusive" interview with Major General Mohsen Reza'i, commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [RESALAT] How do you assess the political situation in the region in view of the conditions that exist in the Persian Gulf and Central Asia? Is there a serous military threat against the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Reza'i] The colonialist Western powers have had a program for the domination of the Middle East and have always awaited an historical opportunity to implement their programs. The plan for complete domination of the Middle East region, political consolidation of Israel, the politico-military presence of the West in the region, and attempts to propagate Western culture and influence are the three main elements of this plan, which the Western countries have sought to implement for many years. However, there is a series of impediments, such as the Islamic awakening in the region, the heightening sense of independence among Muslim nations in this region. [passage omitted]

At present the Westerners are involved in resolving the Arab-Israeli issue, and later on they will seek to enlist the

support of more Arab countries by raising issues such as that of the inspection of ships, claims to the three Iranian islands and so on.

It is possible that the West may contemplate a partial military action against us in the long term. It is clear that it is quite restrained in this regard. This is because it is aware that if it enters this military vortex, it will sustain irredeemable losses.

This does not mean that if it is not attacking us militarily the West will not utilize any military tactics. There is a difference between a military war or a military attack, as was the case in the Iran-Iraq war, which was fought with artillery, tanks, and airplanes over a prolonged period, and there was aggression against our territory. However, if they plant a bomb somewhere or fire a missile, it is not a war, but a military attack with a political objective, that is, it was politically motivated. It is not too farfetched for them to take such action over the long term, but their efforts would be directed toward non-military issues.

The kind of war that they have or will start against us is in the form of pressure on our heroic nation and efforts to regain our prestige. Therefore, we take all threats against us seriously, especially if they are military threats. Most of the threats are non-military at present, but they can be used for military purposes within moments.

[RESALAT] Ostensibly, by signing an accord with the PLO, the usurpist Jerusalem regime is seeking to extend its influence in the Islamic countries. How do you view this accord and is there the possibility of a full-scale war with Israel, considering the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran?

[Reza'i] As I said earlier, this plot was discovered by the pious people as well as the hypocrites. The Islamic Republic of Iran understood this plot and so did Yasir 'Arafat and some of the hypocritical heads of the regional countries. However, they joined the infidels against the Islamic front. They participated in this planning. We see 'Arafat's role in the Persian Gulf war and in destroying Arab solidarity. 'Arafat was instrumental in undermining this solidarity and ultimately destroying it. [passage omitted]

[RESALAT] How do you see the situation in Iranian, Iraqi, and Turkish Kurdistan? How do you view the counterrevolutionary moves in Iranian Kordestan?

[Reza'i] The slogan of a Greater Kordestan was a colonialist one, and the colonialists merely used the Kurdish nation as a lever, as they were never serious about this slogan. They merely wanted to attain their own objectives. A number of the Kurds themselves who were affiliated with the politically broadminded groups used the Kurdish nation in order to satisfy their own power lust and megalomania.

The same situation persists today. The Kurdish nation is being used for the attainment of their own ulterior motives. We realized this a long time ago. Today, the situation in Iranian Kordestan is a very favorable one, and we have proclaimed to all that we will spare no effort to ensure security in Kordestan. We have warned the counterrevolutionaries who come from across the border to cause trouble that we will pursue them wherever they are. If they commit aggression on our territory, we will use all possible means (airplanes, missiles, tanks, artillery) against them, and we will not permit them any aggression against our borders. [passage omitted]

Turkish Request To Pursue Kurds Rejected

PM2010141493 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Oct 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Iran Agrees To Reactivate Joint Security Committee; Basharati Rejects Turkish Interior Minister's Request To Allow Turkey To Pursue Kurds Across the Border"]

[Excerpt] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Diplomatic sources in Tehran yesterday confirmed that Iran has rejected a Turkish request to allow Turkish forces to enter Iran's territory to pursue Kurdish rebels.

Turkish Interior Minister Mehmet Gazioglu, who is currently visiting Tehran, submitted this request at a meeting with his Iranian opposite number 'Ali Mohammad Besharati.

However, Iran has agreed to reactivate the joint security committee to monitor Kurdish rebels' activities on both sides of the countries' border, according to the sources.

Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has assured Gazioglu that all the bases the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] used in the past on Iranian territory have now been closed. A Turkish security team inspected the alleged bases last month, but Turkish media services insist that PKK elements are making infiltrations from Iranian territory.

Gazioglu also raised the question of the future of some 700,000 Iranians who have turned to Turkey since the mullahs assumed power in Tehran. Turkey refused to grant emigrants permanent residence rights, but at the same time it condemns what it terms "terrorist actions," which Tehran is carrying out against Iranians in Turkey.

As is well known, 26 Iranians living in Turkey have been assassinated by squads said to have come from Tehran, and 23 have been kidnapped; some reports say they have been taken to Iran.

Turkey also accuses Iran of involvement in the murder of some 30 Turkish journalists, university professors, and politicians. Over 50 people, most of them born in Lebanon and holding Iranian passports, are currently in Turkish jails on charges of terrorism.

Iran is eager to improve its relations with Turkey because 30 percent of its imports passes through the latter's territory. [passage omitted]

Volume of Trade With Turkey Rises

LD1910233393 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] The volume of trade between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey increased by more than 15 percent in the last eight months, reaching $599.2 million.

Iranian exports to Turkey rose from $196.5 million to over $433 million. In the same period, our country's imports from Turkey fell from $319.5 million to $165.2 million.

On the basis of figures supplied by the Chamber of Commerce of Turkey, the balance of trade between Iran and Turkey in the last eight months shows a surplus of $268.7 million.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Meets Borujerdi

NC2110070393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 21 93

[Text] Bilateral relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan and the most important political developments of the region and of the world were discussed at a meeting between our deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania and the new Pakistani foreign minister in Tehran last night.

During this meeting, Borujerdi pointed out: Broadening relations with our Islamic neighbor Pakistan is the clear and constant policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In view of the election of the new government, a new round of cooperation between Tehran and Islamabad will begin immediately.

Pakistan's new foreign minister, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, said he was pleased that his first visit abroad as foreign minister is to Iran and stressed that Iran is Pakistan's best friend. Commenting on a report by the Zionist regime's radio that a delegation has been sent from Israel to Pakistan to establish relations, he said: We strongly refute this report and believe such reports are disseminated to spread discord in the Islamic world. The Pakistani foreign minister pointed out that the Pakistani Government is steadfast on its stance toward Tel Aviv.

The new Pakistani foreign minister had a brief stopover in Tehran on his way to Cyprus.

President Congratulates Pakistan's Bhutto

LD2110122493 Tehran IRNA in English 0944 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct 21, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Wednesday [20 October] sent a congratulatory message to the new prime minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto, following her re-election to the post Tuesday.

Referring to Tehran-Islamabad cordial ties, President Rafsanjani hoped for further expansion and strengthening of cultural, historical, and religious relations between the two nations.

The president also wished success for Prime Minister Bhutto and prosperity and loftiness for the Muslim neighbouring people of Pakistan.

Envoy in Delhi Urges Bilateral Cooperation

LD2010221993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to India, Mr. 'Ali Reza Sheykh Attar, said in the gathering of the representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and Industrialists Union that the project on laying gas pipeline between Iran and India will be a sign of a joint cooperation between the two countries.

Mr. Sheykh Attar said: In the pre-Islamic revolution period, Iran's economic policy was based on establishment of relationship with the Western countries, but the equation changed after the victory of the Islamic revolution, and Iran further expanded its relations with the Third World countries.

He stressed that Iran and India must trust their economic capabilities and cooperate with each other to prevent the domination of the West.

UN Envoy Discusses GATT Application

LD1910213093 Tehran IRNA in English 1408 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Vienna, Oct. 19, IRNA—Iran's representative to the U.N. office in Geneva, Sirus Naseri, expressed Tehran's interest in becoming a member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

In a meeting Monday [18 October] with the new GATT director general, Peter Sutherland, he said that an increase of non-oil exports and high economic productivity has made GATT membership attractive to Iran.

Naseri stressed that Iran will lodge its membership application if the Uruguay round of GATT negotiations end with a positive outcome.

Sutherland, underlining the importance GATT attaches to Iran's membership, said that the organization is fully prepared for cooperation with Iran.

He added that the Uruguay round of negotiations, are not, as reported by the mass media, between the U.S. and Europe. Developing countries have played a major part in the decision-making and have also managed to secure important advantages for themselves, the new director general emphasized.

Sutherland, expressing pessimism to a positive outcome of Uruguay GATT negotiations, said that a successful conclusion would lead to a sharp increase of international trade deals.

Tehran-Tashkent Air Service Begins

LD1910150893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Thanks to the expansion program of Homa, the Islamic Republic of Iran's airline, a service from Tehran to Tashkent began today.

Return flights between Esfahan and Kuwait will also start next month.

Non-Oil Exports From West Azerbaijan Detailed

LD1910145493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Over 20,000 tonnes of non-oil goods, valued at 3.76 billion rials, were exported abroad from West Azerbaijan province during the first six months of the current year. The said items of mostly dried and fresh fruits and nuts, leather, wool, potatoes, blankets, and clothing were exported to Europe and Asian countries.

Ahvaz Steel Production Figures

LD1910231493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] The Ahvaz Steel Complex exported 500,000 tonnes of steel in Tir [22 June to 22 July] this year, achieving a new record in the production and export of steel. On the basis of figures supplied by Esfahan Steel Mill, the production of steel ingots at the complex exceeded 1 million tonnes in the first six months of this year [beginning 21 March 93]. The production of various steel products in the plant is expected to reach 2 million tonnes by the end of this year.

Pakistan

Prime Minister Bhutto Outlines Government Priorities

BK2010164093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 1536 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] My dear Pakistani brothers and sisters: Peace be upon you. I have the honor of addressing you at a very important juncture in Pakistan's political development. The Pakistani nation elected its representatives a few days ago in the most fair, free, impartial, and transparent elections in its history. A majority of National Assembly members elected the people's government in order to implement its election manifesto and serve you. I have already assumed the responsibility of my office. On this occasion, I thank God that He blessed the Federation of Pakistan with the opportunity to move forward toward its goal of democracy. The nation has emerged from this trial successfully. The democratic forces have always had confidence in the Pakistani people's political foresight, profound wisdom, and intelligence. I promise you and assure you that we will do everything possible to prove ourselves able and worthy of the confidence expressed in me and my colleagues.

On this occasion, I also pay tribute to the caretaker government, the Election Commission, Pakistan's Armed Forces, the civil administration, the police, and the judiciary, whose commitment to duty and patriotism made the fair and transparent elections possible. In this way, they fulfilled their promise to the nation. All these quarters deserve the entire nation's thanks. I salute them on behalf of the Pakistani nation.

My dear countrymen, while expressing my satisfaction over a great achievement of the Pakistani nation—the fair conduct of the elections—I am not unaware of the fact that the democratic system in itself is not the final objective. It is a means for the realization of our objectives. Those objectives are: Ensuring the development and glory of our beloved motherland and the prosperity of the nation; establishing a just Islamic welfare society; achieving a prestigious and honorable position in the community of nations; protecting our vital national interests; making the defense of the beloved motherland impregnable; and bringing the fruits of development to the Pakistani people. The entire nation needs to work hard for a long time to achieve these objectives. The people will have to carve out a better position for themselves by virtue of their own hard labor. I promise you that the people's government will work with full sincerity and dedication to achieve these objectives. We will make the honor and prosperity of the motherland our mission, and will not shrink from any sacrifice to achieve it.

My dear countrymen! I also assure you that we will adhere to the best democratic traditions. We will grant the opposition its legitimate status. We will welcome their constructive criticism and will not adopt the attitude of opposing them for the sake of opposition. I hope that the opposition, for their part, will also display a spirit of sportsmanship and respect the people's mandate. On behalf of the people's government, I assure them that we will adopt a live and let live attitude in order to strengthen the democratic tradition in Pakistan and end the frequent games of musical chairs [preceding two words in English] in politics. After 40 years of independence, we should be capable of displaying good political manners. We have repeatedly witnessed the game of destabilizing and ousting governments. Pakistan should now enter a new era of political stability. And I hope that all political forces in the country will fulfill their responsibilities in this regard.

My brothers and sisters! We have clear perceptions and thoughts on Pakistan's reconstruction. We know that Pakistan's economic condition is critical. The caretaker government has taken some steps to improve the national economy. We will review them and continue those steps that are correct and beneficial while revising those that need to be reviewed.

Solving the problems of unemployment and inflation will be one of the foremost priorities of the people's government. We will take steps to provide relief to poor people. We will ensure that those who plundered the national wealth are held accountable, and every legal and administrative action taken to recover the funds from those who usurped bank loans. We will take steps to reduce inflation. We will make the process of privatization more transparent and equitable, and remove incorrect policies in this regard. Projects and schemes that are economically incorrect will be revised.

My brothers and sisters! Keeping the economy in view, I have decided that the people's government will establish a cell. This cell will be responsible for making immediate suggestions to the government for improving foreign exchange reserves and encouraging Pakistan's exporters. This cell will submit its suggestions to the government within six weeks, and God willing, our foreign exchange reserves and exports will increase as a result of these suggestions.

Brothers and sisters! We will take steps to eliminate the imbalance and distortion created in the 1973 Constitution by the ninth constitutional amendment. We expect the opposition's cooperation in this regard. We will grant the provinces their legitimate rights and fully respect the requirements of provincial autonomy. We will introduce new ideas in the sphere of local self- government and strive to solve the people's problems by entrusting local bodies with a new role, a new vigor, and new authority. We will rid the administration of the diseases of inefficiency and corruption, and strive to create an administration that can be called a real service-oriented administration. We will give foremost attention to the interests of women, minorities, laborers, peasants, intellectuals, and students. We will reform the judicial system. It will be our major task to provide inexpensive and speedy justice.

We will struggle to end Indian violence in Kashmir and mobilize world opinion toward this objective. We will defend Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program; we will never allow our national interests to be jeopardized. We are committed to the fulfillment of everything we pledged in our manifesto.

Dear countrymen! I would like to draw your attention to some more issues. Due to poverty and illiteracy, there are people in our country who are deprived of basic facilities, while high government officials waste both wealth and time on major functions and ceremonies. The people's government will discourage this practice and will not allow the waste of funds and time on major functions, excepts those that are necessary. I have ordered a reduction in protocol and security for the prime minister, so that the people's government and representatives can pay attention to serving the people instead of being involved in protocol and security. It is our duty to narrow the gap between the government and the people.

My brothers and sisters! A free press is essential for a strong democracy. The people's government will create an excellent atmosphere conducive to the freedom of the media. The honor and sovereignty of the judiciary will be ensured. The administration—I mean high government officials—will not be used to browbeat people. Along with giving full protection to the civil service, we will take measure to see that the administration serves the people and cannot take undue advantage of its position [preceding word in English].

The federation was harmed by past confrontations between the federal government and the provincial governments. Instead of constructive criticism and cooperation, stubborn posturing was adopted. The people's development program was sabotaged [preceding word in English]. Now, tension between the federal government and the provincial governments will not be allowed. A heavy responsibility also rests on the shoulders of the people; they must not allow anybody to create the conditions that provide an opportunity to sabotage national development. The people should hold these people accountable so that the nation's time and resources are not wasted in the confrontation.

A large number of voters in the recent elections were youths. The new generation has given us a mandate not only to form a government, but to prepare the country for the 21st century. It is also the responsibility of the country's youths to equip themselves with the skills and education to bring the country to the level of the developed countries of the modern world in the fields of science and technology. In this way Pakistan can enter the 21st century as a model country. This is the future of Pakistan, and only our youths can cast this future.

My dear countrymen! The dark clouds on the horizon of democracy have dispersed. A new day has dawned. I congratulate all my brothers and sisters who guided the caravan of democracy from the darkness of ruination to the light and splendor. I invite all those Pakistanis who were our companions in this journey—and also those who disagreed with us—to come forward and jointly build Pakistan to make it a strong and progressive nation of the 21st century. I am hopeful that with your cooperation we will be able to crown our dear motherland with new glories, and Pakistan's future will be brighter and more luminous than in the past.

Dear countrymen! The seat of power actually belongs to Almighty God. With God's kindness and your prayers, I have assumed this seat to serve God's creations. I will endeavor to see that the government works for the well-being of the people. Pray that God Almighty blesses us with success in this objective. Amen.

Government May Seek Term Reduction

BK2010095993 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Oct 93 pp 1, 10

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 19—The next government plans to introduce a comprehensive constitutional reform package which could, among other things, provide for the reduction in the government's terms from five to four years.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in her first press conference on Tuesday [19 October] evening at the VIP Lounge of Chakhal Air base said that the term of the government will not be reduced through a single amendment. It will be a part of a constitutional package which will be enacted in a spirit of give and take, she added.

"The people who support the idea of a four-year term for the government, would have to give us some thing in return for taking some thing," she said.

In her opening remarks, the Prime Minister told journalists that she had decided to have a smaller cabinet than her previous one. She said two federation ministers took oath Tuesday and two or three more would be sworn in Wednesday. One each would go to the Pakistan Muslim League (Junejo Group) and PQP [Pakistan Qaumi Party], she said.

The Prime Minister said that the initial strength of the federal cabinet would be 10 to 12. Some special assistants to run the Prime Minister Secretariat would also be inducted.

To a query Benazir Bhutto said her government would carry forward those projects of the previous government which are in the national interest.

The Prime Minister said the outgoing caretaker Prime Minister had taken some revolutionary steps. "All plans, which are considered to be good, would be continued. Some of the projects required to be reviewed," she added.

Ms Bhutto said her Government would endeavour to remove the misunderstandings which had cropped up about Pakistan's peaceful nuclear programme, narcotics and allegations of terrorism.

Pakistan, she said, was known to be "allied ally" of the United States and her government would make efforts to improve the relations between the two countries.

The Prime Minister said Pakistan always enjoyed excellent bilateral relations with the Muslim countries and she would try to further cement those relationships.

Benazir Bhutto said Kashmir was a burning issue in the region and Paksitan would seek its political resolution. Her government, she added, would work to reduce tension in the region.

The Prime Minister said, Pakistan would play an active role in the international arena. Its ties with Japan and European countries would be improved further.

Benazir Bhutto said she had yet not decided who would represent Pakistani at the Commonwealth Heads Summit at Limasol in Cyprus to be held from Oct 21 to 25. She said she would visit Foreign Office Wednesday and would review the situation.

She said the affectees of Cooperative scam and Taj Company wold get their rights and would be duly compensated.

The Prime Minister said the government employees dismissed on the political grounds would be reinstated.

Out government, she said, was the people's government and would keep a close liaison with the press also as it had during its opposition.

When asked about the unconditional offer of cooperation by the leader of the Opposition Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Benazir Bhutto said she had nothing to add to what she had stated on the floor of the National Assembly.

Bhutto Says Kashmir 'Main Obstacle' in Indian Ties

BK2010143093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said that the Jammu and Kashmir issue is the main obstacle in the way of better relations between India and Pakistan, and its solution must be based on the aspirations and legitimate rights of the Kashmiri people. In a letter of thanks to the Indian prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, for his message of felicitation, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said her government attaches the highest priority to the restoration of normal, tension-free relations with India. She said progress toward this objective would contribute to strengthening peace and stability in South Asia. The prime minister said Pakistan is prepared to engage in serious and purposeful discussions in order to resolve Kashmir issue, as well as other problems between the two countries.

Discusses Kashmir, U.S. Ties, Nuclear Program

JN2010145593 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 18-24 Oct 93 pp 16-18

[Interview with Benazir Bhutto, prime minister and leader of the Pakistan People's Party, by Zaki Shihab; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shihab] How important is the Kashmir issue to you?

[Bhutto] The Kashmir issue holds a cherished place in the mind and heart of each and every Pakistani and Muslim. The sufferings of our brothers there are increasing. Not a single day passes without us hearing of attacks on people or property there. UN resolutions give the Kashmiri people the right to determine their future themselves. I believe that the Indian Government should respect the UN resolution issued in this regard. It should

not be acceptable for India to continue to rob the Kashmiri people of their will by the use of force.

[Shihab] Could the dispute with India over Kashmir disturb the peace in the region and lead to a confrontation?

[Bhutto] It is no secret that the failure to resolve the Kashmir issue is a source of instability in the region. As this issue led to bloody military confrontations in the past, I do not rule out a possible reeruption of hostilities in the region if India takes an irrational step.

The Pakistani Government is ready to accept the outcome of any free elections in Kashmir, or any UN-sponsored referendum there. If the Kashmiri people were to decide to remain part of India, we would accept the people's decision. In the same vein, if the people show a determination to have an independent state of their own, we would respect their wishes. But, India must comply with the wishes of the international community in this regard.

[Shihab] What about the danger of using nuclear weapons?

[Bhutto] India has not concealed the fact that it has nuclear weapons. The fact that India conducted nuclear tests in the past is now public knowledge. India has continued to work to promote its nuclear capabilities and to seek the help of foreign expertise in this regard. Pakistan has repeatedly asked that India allow an international commission to supervise all nuclear programs in the region. However, Pakistan's request was rejected. The world population, including the Pakistani people, have the right to take advantage of progress in the field of science and technology to serve mankind and promote its quest for progress, rather than destruction.

[Shihab] But, according to some Pakistani experts, Pakistan also possesses nuclear warheads.

[Bhutto] I have been out of office since 1990. I am not fully aware of the developments witnessed in the nuclear program. Nonetheless, it goes without saying that Pakistan does have the right to act as it sees fit to protect its borders and safeguard its security. We have repeatedly noted our determination to comply with the international will. It is, however, unfair for Pakistan to come under various forms of pressure in this regard, while India maintains its policy.

[Shihab] Are you willing to halt the activities of the Pakistani nuclear program?

[Bhutto] The issue cannot be handled in this manner. Our people do have the right to use science and technology to promote their industry and capabilities. But, when faced with an enemy outnumbers us, and that has more equipment than we do, we, in an act of self-defense, would use all means to vindicate this right and protect our borders.

[Shihab] Are you interested in maintaining a good relationship with the United States?

[Bhutto] Yes, I am extremely interested in this. I hope that our relations with the United States will be greatly boosted following the deterioration in ties in the past.

[Shihab] Is it possible to improve these relations if Pakistan continues with its efforts to develop its nuclear program?

[Bhutto] We have managed to dispel U.S. doubts. In the past, we took several steps to show our concern for using nuclear energy for humane purposes. We further said that our country is willing to comply with the wishes of the international community if India, and other countries in the region, agree to sign an agreement banning the use of nuclear weapons. Our country's relationship with the United States is old. We have paid a heavy price for this relationship, thanks to our anti-communist posture and the efforts we made to fight communist aggression in Afghanistan before the mojahedin managed to tilt the situation in their favor there. It was this understanding with the United States that spared Pakistan the scourge of having its name placed on the list of countries sponsoring terrorism.

[Shihab] Are you optimistic about a better future for Afghanistan in the coming phase?

[Bhutto] Everybody in Kabul must admit that the use of violence and arms does not help to resolve problems, but rather exacerbates them. Hence, I urge Afghans to hold a dialogue among themselves to reach an agreement on a viable formula. The Afghan people have paid a heavy price for the Soviet invasion in terms of instability, halted progress, and human lives. I think that it is high time the reconstruction endeavor started there to allow refugees to return to their cities and villages. [passage omitted]

To Raise Kashmir at Commonwealth Summit

BK2110031793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is leaving for Cyprus today to attend the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Limassol. She will attend the second executive session of the meeting and will meet several Commonwealth leaders. She is expected to return home tomorrow after performing a minor pilgrimage. In a statement before her departure, Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan will raise the Kashmir issue at the Commonwealth heads of goverment meeting in Cyprus. She said Pakistan will stress that the continuous violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir is against the basic principles of the Commonwealth. She said the Kashmir issue is a direct cause of serious and deep concern. India is crushing with great audacity the struggle of the Kashmiris for their right to self-determination. The prime minister said Pakistan will urge the association to fulfill its responsibilities for the promotion of a world order that lays emphasis on respect for human rights and freedom of all without any discrimination. She said this conference will provide an opportunity to highlight the

determination and courage of the people of Pakistan to run the national affairs with the stability of democracy and by democratic principles.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the nuclear threat has been reduced. However, due to the emergence of new conflicts and intensification of existing ones, a constructive progresss in this direction has been affected to some extent. She also said disastrous aggression is continuing in Bosnia and the economic conditions of developing countries are gradually becoming a matter of great concern.

Television Relays Bhutto's Swearing-In Ceremony

BK1910120393

[Editorial Report] Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu at 1025 GMT on 19 October begins live coverage of the ceremony held at the President House in Islamabad, where Benazir Bhutto will be sworn in as the new prime minister of Pakistan. The video footage opens with a wide view of the President House and pan shots of the hall where the swearing-in ceremony is to take place. Among those present at the ceremony are Chief Election Commissioner Justice Naimmudin; Army Chief General Abdul Waheed; Navy Chief Admiral Sayeed M. Khan; Air Force Chief Air Marshal Farooq Firoze Khan; Caretaker Prime Minister Moin Qureshi; and caretaker ministers, political leaders, and foreign diplomats. Announcer Hameed Akhtar gives details of the program, saying the swearing-in ceremony is to start shortly and requests journalist Anwar Khaleel to comment on the ceremony. Khaleel reviews the outcome of the general elections and discusses salient points of the election manifesto of Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party, including Bhutto's promise to reduce the term of the parliament from five to four years. He adds that "this is the sixth occasion in the past five years when the swearing-in ceremony of a new prime minister is taking place at the President House."

Acting President Wasim Sajjad, accompanied by Benazir Bhutto, arrives in the hall at 1032 GMT. The president and the newly elected prime minister stand at attention at a flower-bedecked dais as the national anthem is played. The swearing-in ceremony begins at 1034 GMT with a recitation from the Koran and an Urdu translation. Acting President Wasim Sajjad then administers oath of office of the prime minister to Benazir Bhutto in Urdu. After the swearing-in, the acting president congratulates the prime minister, but does not shake hands with her. The two leaders then sit in their chairs and sign some documents.

At 1044 GMT, Acting President Wasim Sajjad administers oaths to two federal ministers—Aftab Shaban Mirani and Farooq Leghari. The portfolios of the two ministers are not announced. The swearing-in ceremony ends at 1049 GMT with the departure of President Sajjad and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto from the hall. The live coverage ends at 1051 GMT.

Four Ministers Take Oath

BK2110063493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] At a function in Islamabad today, four federal ministers, one minister of state, and an adviser took their oaths of office. President Wasim Sajjad administered the oath, and Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto attended the ceremony. The federal ministers and their portfolios are as follows:

Retired Brigadier M. Azghar	Production Ministry
Dr. Sher Afghan	Parliamentary Affairs
Mohammad Afzal Khan	States and Frontier Regions
Retired Major General Nasirullah Babar	Interior

(Chaudhary Ahmad Mukhtar) took the oath of office as the minister of state for commerce, and V.A. Jafarey has been appointed an adviser.

Paper Views Bhutto's 'Dramatic Comeback'

BK2010091393 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 20 Oct 93 p 7

[Editorial: "Bhutto's Comeback"]

[Text] Elected Prime Minister by a comfortable majority in the National Assembly, Benazir Bhutto has made a dramatic comeback. She is the first Prime Minister in the country's recent history to have been re-elected, and that too within a period of three years. In the National Assembly vote on Tuesday [19 October], she secured the support of 121 members, which gives her government a clear overall majority in the House. Her lead over her rival, former Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif was 49—much more than the support her party and its allies elicited in the election for the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Parliament's Lower House. Eight members abstained in the vote, most of whom belonged to the religious parties.

In her first speech to the House after her election and in the press conference she addressed soon after, the new Prime Minister indicated the policy directions that will guide her government. In laying special stress on the economy, she suggested that putting the economy on a stable track would be her government's top priority. Ms Bhutto had earlier said she would stay the policy course set by the interim government of Mr Moin Qureshi. This is an encouraging sign of the new government's commitment to fiscal responsibility, budgetary restraint and containing inflation.

Ms Bhutto also declared after being sworn in as Prime Minister, that she would endeavour to end Pakistan's diplomatic isolation. This indicates that her government intends to undertake vigorous diplomacy both to remove irritants in Pakistan's relations with its key allies and

also to strengthen ties with others. The first two ministers sworn in as members of her cabinet, which is expected to be small, also shows that Prime Minister Bhutto wants to put her best foot forward both: Farooq Leghari and Aftab Shaban Mirani who will hold the portfolios of Foreign Affairs and Defence respectively, are credible and clean figures, who inspire confidence.

In the speeches that were delivered in the Assembly immediately upon Ms Bhutto's election, it was encouraging to find that both the Leader of the House and Leader of the Opposition called for an end to the politics of confrontation and political horse-trading that has brought politicians into such disrepute. Mian Nawaz Sharif made offers of cooperation while Ms Bhutto spoke of a new era of government-opposition amity. However we have to wait and see whether and how far, what are for the time being, pious statements and platitudes will translate into practice. Obviously, great responsibility rests on both these leaders to make parliamentary democracy—that has received so many blows in the past five years—work.

We have repeatedly urged a constructive relationship between the government of the day and the opposition of the day. And we do so again with renewed emphasis. It should not be forgotten that public expectations with their leaders, and with the newly elected members of the National Assembly, are that they should find way and means to strengthen democracy, and not erode it by ceaseless confrontation. If these public expectations are dashed again, the entire system risks being discredited. Let there be no mistake about at least this reality: This is the last chance for parliamentary democracy in Pakistan.

Challenges Ahead Assessed

BK2010094393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Oct 93 p 6

[Editorial: "The Task Ahead for Prime Minister Bhutto"]

[Text] As was expected, PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leader Benazir Bhutto has been elected Prime Minister of the country. Though her party's margin of electoral victory in the nation-wide polls was not large her victory in the election to the leader of the House on Tuesday was rather comfortable. 121 votes for her as against only 72 for her rival Mr Nawaz Sharif. The margin of victory would of course have varied depending upon which way those who chose to abstain from voting had decided to cast their vote but Benazir's victory was assured nonetheless.

Benazir has now entered the office of the Prime Minister for the second time in three years. For the People's Party it is the third stint in power since 1970. When her government was dismissed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on August 6, 1990 on charges of corruption, few would have though it possible for her to stage a comeback so soon. She was considered to be the bete noire of the President, the military and the establishment, and widely regarded to have bungled her first term. Formidable political and other (?figures) had arrayed against her, and the general thinking was—that she wouldn't be able to make it back. The perception was further reinforced when after the dismissal of her government Benazir and other party leaders were hounded from pillar to post. Blatant attempts were made to discredit the party and even divide it, but all such efforts failed. That the predictions made about the party and Benazir in August 1990 have proved wrong in 1993 is a testament not only to the vagaries of politics in the country, but also to the qualities of leadership and charisma of Benazir Bhutto, and to her perseverance and courage.

Three years later Benazir re-enters the corridors of power with a mixed bag of assets and liabilities. Today she is no longer held in suspicion by the President or the Army. As she has already made her peace with the establishment, the base of her acceptability has considerably broadened. She has the experience of hindsight and, as she herself stated recently, the party will avoid repeating the mistakes it made in the past. She also looks forward confidently to capturing power in the country's largest province Punjab, where a hostile government last time proved to be her undoing. With Punjab also on her side the can expect smoother sailing this time around.

However, the liabilities and challenges that she has to contend with are also not small. She is faced with a formidable parliamentary opposition which will not make the task of governance easy tor her. Already some political pundits have predicted that she will not complete her five year term. There will be various pulls and pressures as is witnessed in all coalition governments and her freedom of action will be severely restricted. Important regional parties including the ANP [Awami National Party] and MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] are against her and can make things difficult for the government. People will have high expectations of a government whose capacity to deliver on its promises will be curtailed by the split mandate given by the electorate. When there is a clash between expectations and realities the result often is frustration. Some of the difficult economic decisions taken by the caretaker government such as devaluation, withdrawal of subsidies and raise in prices of utilities will begin to tell just when the term of the new government has begun. All these will certainly take their toll on the Benazir government.

The tasks ahead of the new government are varied, many and difficult. Benazir is right when she said in her address to the National Assembly that people are yearning for a change in the system and not merely for a change of faces. But how can she help change the system? She must recognise that she cannot do it without the help and cooperation of the opposition. The first thing she must therefore do is to initiate the process of reconciliation with the opposition and begin with it a dialogue on those fundamental social and political issues which need to be addressed urgently. One such issue is that of the sovereignty of the parliament, and another is that of lending some stability to the political system. There must

be therefore a meaningful dialogue on undoing the pernicious effects of the 8th Amendment and also on bringing the independent members and smaller parties in the Assembly under the ambit of the recently promulgated anti-defection law. Both Benazir and Nawaz Sharif have been stung by these defects in the system and both must join hands to remove them.

Sharif Addresses Assembly Following Bhutto Victory

BK2110105893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 0618 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Speech by opposition leader Mohammad Nawaz Sharif to the National Assembly session in Islamabad to elect a prime minister —live]

[Excerpts] Mr. Speaker! First of all, through you I want to congratulate Ms. Benazir Bhutto, who today has once again become the leader of this distinguished House, and to thank Almighty God that this democratic process has reached its destination wi[th] success and a new era is dawning again. It is the good fortune of Pakistan that it has now started pursuing a path which will, God willing, slowly and definitely guide it to its destination. Democracy is still in a gestation period in Pakistan. Although Pakistan's past in this regard is not so pleasant, however, there is a need to make it pleasant by working together, and Pakistan's politicians can definitely play a role in this. The manner in which the character assassination of politicians has been carried out in this country in the past—also witnessed during the recent elections—does not show that it is just Pakistani politicians who are nasty, but rather that it is the fault of the society in which we all live where only one kind of person is the target of criticism, he who is called a politician. All of us, however, are to be blamed for this. I think now the time has come to pledge together that we will run our system correctly and take this country to its destination according to the ideals and aspirations cherished by Mohammad Ali Jinnah. In my view, only then will this country, God willing, not be endangered.

Mr. Speaker! I am happy that I and Ms. Benazir Bhutto contested the office, which Ms. Benazir Bhutto has now assumed, in a democratic manner. The contest was tough, and there was a lot of speculation as to who would get how many votes or how many seats. The final difference, however, was not much. If you briefly review our respective strengths, I think 12 or 15 seats are not much difference. We do not regret losing this battle. God grants either victory or defeat, and one side emerges victorious and another side is defeated. I want to thank the entire nation, however, for the spirit with which the nation and people of Pakistan supported us. [applause] I believe I could not have expected more than this support. By the grace of God, the entire nation has granted us 8.7 million votes whereas my opponent has got 7.6 million votes. [applause] The Pakistan Muslim League has secured 1.1 million more votes than our rivals. That is a matter of great satisfaction to me. As you see, they have recognized the sacrifices we made during our tenure. We sacrificed two and a half years of our power.

My only regret is about the manner in which the attempt was made to destabilize the system after the Supreme Court restored us and the National Assembly gave us a vote of confidence following the action taken aginst us by the former president. I do not think that such a situation should have been allowed to continue. That time has passed, however, and there is no need to talk about the past as it will not serve any purpose. However, I would like to state before this distinguished house that the manner in which the opposition at that time tried to destabilize our government, the way in which conspiracies were hatched against us, and whatever possible was done against us. God willing, such attempts will not be made by us. [applause] We will not destabilize the system. We will not deliberately indulge in opposition. We will practice a constructive opposition, which is the right of an opposition in a democratic country. [passage omitted]

Today, we are assembled here due to the mercy of God. I have carefully listened to what Ms. Benazir Bhutto had to say. I am very happy that she has said very good things. We, God willing, will offer unconditional cooperation to the government to fulfill all these objectives—to eliminate illiteracy, poverty and disease from the country, end the practice of horse trading, and eliminate narcotics and other ills from the country. There will be no conditions attached to our cooperation, because how long can we afford to allow Pakistan to remain afflicted with these ills? I think now we have reached a stage where we should not waste our time and continue to play a negative role to push Pakistan into further darkness. I think that time has passed now. We should start a new phase and understand these problems of Pakistan, and, if we have to take Pakistan into the 21st century, I think the opposition and the government should cooperate with each other and jointly rectify all such problems. We, as you will see, God willing, not play any type of negative role, both within the assemblies or outside them. [passage omitted]

Voting for Provincial Assembly Officials Detailed

BK1910151693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 19 Oct 93

[Text] Mr. Mohammad Hanif Ramay and Mian Manzur Ahmad Mohal—combined candidates of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and Pakistan Muslim League-Junejo Group—have been elected speaker and deputy speaker of the Punjab Assembly. The session of the Punjab Assembly was held this morning to elect the speaker and deputy speaker. Voting was carried out by secret balloting. PTV representative says 238 votes were cast for the election of the speaker. Mr. Hanif Ramay of the PPP secured 130 votes, while his rival Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khan Khoso of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group got 107 votes, while one vote was rejected. The outgoing speaker, Mr. Syed Ahmad Maner,

administered oath of office to Mr. Mohammad Hanif Ramay, the newly elected speaker.

In the second contest, Mian Manzur Ahmad Mohal defeated Sardar Hasan Akhtar Moakkal by 131 votes to 105. The house will meet tomorrow to ascertain which member commands the majority of the house.

In Karachi, PPP's Mr. Ghaus Bux Khan Mehar and Mr. Nabil Ahmad Gabol were elected as speaker and deputy speaker of the Sindh Assembly. The outgoing speaker, Mr. Abdur Razeq Khan, presided over the session. Mr. Ghaus Bux Khan Mehar secured 66 votes out of the 93 votes cast. His rival, Shoaib Ahmad Bukhari of Haqparast Group, polled 27 votes. Mr. Nabil Ahmad Gabol received 65 votes, while Mr. Qazi Khaled Ali of Haqparast Group got 27 votes. After the results were announced, the outgoing speaker administered the oath of office to the new speaker. The speaker, Mr. Ghaus Bux Khan Mehar, then administered oath of office to the new deputy speaker. Earlier, nine members elected on minority seats of the Sindh Assembly took oath.

And in Quetta, Mr. Abdul Wahid Baloch of Balochistan National Movement-Mengal Group and Bashir Masih of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group were elected as speaker and deputy speaker of the Balochistan Assembly today. Mr. Abdul Wahid Baloch bagged 22 votes as against 19 obtained by Mr. Abdul Qahar Wahdan of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group. One vote was declared invalid. The outgoing speaker, Malik Sikander Khan, took oath of office from Mr. Abdul Wahid Baloch. Later, polling for the deputy speaker was held. Mr. Bashir Masih of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Group was declared elected with 21 votes. His rival Nawab Abdur Rahim Shahwani of Jamhoori Watan Party secured 20 votes.

Election for the post of speaker and deputy speaker of the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] Assembly will be held tomorrow. The leader of the house will also be elected tomorrow.

Sharif Allies Elected in NWFP

BK2010145093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] In Peshawar, the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] Assembly elected Pir Mohammad Sadir Shah of the PML [Pakistan Muslim League]-Nawaz Group and ANP [Awami National Party] as leader of the house. He secured 38 votes, while Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao of PPP [Pakistan People's Party] and PML-Junejo Group got 29 votes. Election for the ascertainment of the leader of the house was held through the show of hands.

Earlier, the joint candidates of the PML-Nawaz Group and ANP, Mr. Hidayatullah Khan and Khanzada Shad Mohammad Khan, were elected speaker and deputy speaker respectively of the NWFP Assembly. The speaker, Mr. Habibullah Khan Tarin, presided over today's session. Mr. Hidayatullah Khan bagged 40 votes, while his rival, a candidate of the tripartite alliance, Mr. Abdullah Akbar Khan, got 37 votes. One vote was rejected, while four MPA's [members of provincial assembly] of Pakistan Islamic Front abstained. The election was held through secret ballot. One member-elect of the NWFP Assembly, Sardar Mahtab Ahmad Khan, vacated his seat and opted to sit in the National Assembly. Later, Mr. Hidayatullah Khan took oath as speaker. Mr. Habibullah Khan Tarin administered the oath. The deputy speaker of the NWFP Assembly, Khanzada Shad Mohammad Khan, also took the oath. The speaker, Mr. Hidayatullah Khan, administered the oath. Khanzada Shad Mohammad Khan, a joint candidate of PML-Nawaz Group and ANP, got 39 votes, while his rival, a joint candidate of tri,partite alliance, Syed Alauddin, got 38 votes.

And in Quetta, Nawab Zulfiqar Ali Magsi was elected as leader of the house by the Balochistan Provincial Assembly. Voting was held in a special session of the house. Nawab Zulfiqar Ali Magsi, who got 26 votes, was declared leader of the house. His rival, Mr. Mohammad Akhtar Mengal of BNM [Balochistan National Movement]- Mengal, polled 16 votes. A total of six candidates had filed nomination papers. These candidates included Mr. Salim Akbar Bugti of Jamhoori Watan Party, Jan Mohammad Yusuf of PML-Nawaz Group, Mr. Mohammad Akhtar Mengal of BNM-Mengal Group, Sardar Saleh Mohammad Khan Hotani of PPP, and independents—Nawab Zulfiqar Ali Magsi and Nawabzada Chengez Murree. Four candidates—Mr. Salim Abkar Bugti, Jan Mohammad Yusuf, Mr. Saleh Hotani, and Nawabzada Chengez Murree—later withdrew their nominations. Nawab Zulfiqar Ali Magsi will be sworn in as the new chief minister of Balochistan later in the evening.

PPP Candidates Elected Punjab, Sindh Chief Ministers

BK2010083893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] The Punjab Assembly, in its special session in Lahore this morning, elected Mian Manzur Ahmad Wattoo the leader of the house. He was a joint candidate of Pakistan People's Party [PPP] and Pakistan Muslim League [PML]-Junejo Group. Mian Manzur Ahmad Wattoo polled 131 votes, while his rival Mian Shahbaz Sharif of PML- Nawaz Group got 105 votes. Mian Manzur Ahmad Wattoo will take oath as Punjab chief minister in Lahore this evening.

The Sindh Assembly meeting, in a special session in Karachi today, (?elected) PPP nominee Syed Abdullah Shah leader of the house. He was elected leader of the house through 12 identical resolutions moved by different members. The house rejected a resolution seeking the election of Dr. Mohammad Farooq Sattar of Haqparast Group to be leader of the house. Mr. Syed Abdullah Shah is being sworn in as Sindh chief minister about now.

And in Peshawar, Mr. Hidayatullah Khan, a joint candidate of the ANP [Awami National Party] and PML-Nawaz Group, was elected speaker of the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] Assembly today. He got 14 votes, while his rival Mr. Abdullah Akbar Khan of the tripartite alliance bagged 37 votes. One vote was rejected.

Bhutto Congratulates Chief Ministers

BK2110043293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has expressed confidence that the harmonious relations between the federal government and the provinces will be maintained to stabilize democracy and to improve conditions for the people. She said this in her congratulatory messages to the newly elected chief ministers. She said that with the election of the chief ministers by the elected representatives in a free and fair atmosphere without any interference, the process of democracy in the country has been further promoted. She offered her full cooperation for protecting the sovereignty of the provinces.

Spokesman Expesses 'Shock' Over Kashmir Leader's Arrest

BK2010154393 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Pakistan has conveyed its deep concern to the Belgian Government on the arrest of Mr. Amanullah Khan, chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, in Brussels. A Foreign Office spokesman expressed shock on his arrest and said that the entire world knows that allegations against Mr. Amanullah Khan are politically motivated. He said it is obvious that the efforts of the Indian Government to obtain extradition of Mr. Amanullah Khan on false and fabricated charges is part of its campaign to bring into disrepute the struggle of the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their right of self-determination.

Giving his reaction, the vice chairman of the European Socialists in the European Parliament, Mr. (Irso Waltair), said it is clearly a matter of concern that a man legally in the country for a legitimate purpose related to the work of the European Parliament has been arrested in such a dramatic way. The British Labor MP, Mr. George Stevenson, said the car in which he had been travelling with Mr. Khan to an official dinner was ambushed by police on Monday [18 October] night in central Brussels.

'Deep Concern' Over Afghan Clashes

BK2110044793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Oct 93

[Text] Pakistan has welcomed reports that the fighting in Kabul has ended but has expressed deep concern over the continuing clashes in Sarowbi. A Foreign Office spokesman has said that Pakistan wants peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan and is awaiting replies from Saudi Arabia and Iran on a sending peace mission to Afghanistan.

Sri Lanka

President, Prime Minister Congratulate Bhutto

BK2010114093 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Oct 93

[Text] Sri Lanka and Pakistan have enjoyed the traditionally close and friendly relations characterized by mutual understanding and cooperation, President D.B. Wijetunga said as Benazir Bhutto assumed office as prime minister of Pakistan. He looks forward to working closely with her to strengthen these ties even further. In a message of felicitations on Ms. Bhutto's assumption of office as Pakistan's prime minister, the president said that her election reflects the deep trust of the people of Pakistan in her ability to lead them in this crucial period of their history. The successful conclusion of the recent elections and the victory of her Pakistan People's Party are also a triumph for democracy.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, in another message of felicitations, has expressed confidence that traditional ties between the two countries, marked by close friendship and cooperation, will be further consolidated during Ms. Bhutto's term of office.

Security Forces Kill Nine LTTE 'Terrorists'

BK1710112393 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Security forces operating in an area south of Yan Oya in Trincomalee yesterday raided a terrorist hideout and killed eight terrorists. According to the operational headquarters of the Ministry of Defense, troops also recovered eight automatic rifles, one generator, a radio set, and a few other items in addition to the bodies of the dead terrorists. In another incident in the eastern Batticaloa District, troops lying in ambush killed one terrorist and injured another. The dead terrorist was identified as Kunji Master, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] political leader of Amparai and Batticaloa. Troops also recovered three hand grenades and a cyanide capsule.

Air Force Reportedly Grounds Argentine-Built Planes

BK1710073293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0722 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Colombo, Oct 17 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan air force has been forced to ground three of its four Argentine-built attack aircraft, being used in the campaign against Tamil rebels, because of technical problems, the Sunday Times reported.

The Pucara ground-attack aircraft, which were purchased almost a year ago for some 10 million U.S. dollars, were used in the recent military offensive against Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas in the north.

The Sunday Times quoted air force commander Terrence Gunewardene as saying that the three aircraft had problems with their undercarriages, possibly due to a "bad runway" at Kankesanthurai air base in northern Jaffna peninsula.

Aircraft engineers from Argentina were expected ,o arrive here shortly to examine the problem, the newspaper quoted Gunewardene as saying.

The aircraft deal caused controversy over the fact that the manufacture of Pucara had ceased in 1986. According to technical specifications required by the air force, aircraft engines and accessories should be in current production.

President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, who was prime minister at the time, told parliament in December that the Pukara was fitted with engines made in France, and that Paris was enforcing a ban on sales of aircraft parts and arms to Sri Lanka.

There had been considerable opposition within the air force to the Pucara purchase by those favoring a Brazilian-made Tucana aircraft to replace an aging fleet of Italian-made Siai Marchetti planes.

Editorial Stresses Need To Resolve Ethnic Confict

BK1610123593 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 8 Oct 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Tamil Refugees in Europe"]

[Text] The Tamil people moved to other places when they could not live peacefully in their homes due to the continuing violence and civil war. Of them, one group sought asylum at camps in the country, while another group, having some assets, rushed to India and European countries.

Those who migrated to India because of the adverse situation that prevailed in the country were at last "voluntarily" repatriated to Sri Lanka. Following this, those who migrated to the West were very worried as to whether the European countries would follow suit. Today, Sri Lankan Tamil refugees are living in various places, including the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Canada, Switzerland, Australia, and Norway. The money which they sent to Sri Lanka after facing many hardships and working hard day and night, helps overcome the sufferings of their kith and kin still living here. Under these circumstances, the Tamils have been very much anxious to know what would be the decision of the Western countries. Now, there is some solace to their distraught minds.

It has been announced that a good atmosphere has not yet been created in Sri Lanka for the Tamil refugees based in the West to return home and live peacefully. Hence, the Sri Lankan refugees living in the Western countries, including Germany, will not be sent back home. Speaking at a news conference, a German Bundestag member, Detlef Samland [name as published], remarked that a favorable atmosphere does not prevail here for the repatriation of refugees, and so there is no possibility for their immediate repatriation. Even if they are repatriated, they cannot go to their homeland. The statement of the European parliamentary delegation indicates that the international community is well aware of the situation prevailing in Sri Lanka.

It should be borne in mind that it would be quite ridiculous to say that there is no ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka, but only a problem of terrorism. During its talks with the president, besides condemning the activities of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the European Parliament delegation also drew attention to the failure to submit a report on those missing between 1983-90, arrests of Tamil youths in Colombo, and the aerial attacks carried out in Jaffna.

All these things underline the fact that every minute the government delays to duly resolve the ethnic conflict, saying that it is an internal matter, acquires significance at the international level. All parties concerned should give up their unnecessary stubbornness and come forward to resolve the ethnic conflict and prevent further damage to the country and people. The situation, similar to receiving treatment for cancer while concealing leprosy in the body, should not be allowed to continue. At the same time, the Sri Lankan refugees living in Western countries should learn to respect the rules and regulations of those countries and pay due respect to their benevolent attitude. It should not be forgotton that failing to do so will have the Tamil people straddling two fences.